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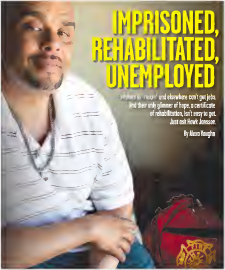

IMPRISONED, REHABILITATED, UNEMPLOYED

Felons in Oakland and elsewhere can't get jobs. And their only glimmer of hope, a certificate of rehabilitation, isn't easy to get. Just ask Hawk Jonsson.

By Alexa Vaughn

ELECTION 2010 WEEK 2

FOR OAKLAND MAYOR:

ALL OF THE ABOVE

PLUS

25 ARGUMENTS AGAINST DON PERATA

AND

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On the Cover *Hawk Aaron Jorman. Photo by Arnand Emerseljorneh.*

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NEWS & OPINION

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Flowers Are the New Fruit

LETTERS

I Offer Solutions

As a Ph.D. candidate and educator I am concerned about the dumbing down of America, particularly by journalists presenting sensational items as if they were real news. More and more, we are fed junk information packaged within cloaks of respectability. Robert Gammon's recent hit piece on my candidacy is a good example of such faux journalism. It appears to have been written in an informational and ethical vacuum.

Mr. Gammon refers to my candidacy as "baffling." What is baffling is that he would choose to weave a racist, sexist, and elitist web of innuendo instead of addressing the issues. Mr. Gammon's underlying premise is that a woman like me could not possibly have the resources to launch a campaign without backroom deals. All over Oakland, there are people just like me who have the intellectual, social, spiritual, and yes, financial resources to effectuate their dreams. These are the people I represent, the ones Mr. Gammon dismisses off hand.

Mr. Gammon mentions my mailer but ignores its content. He discusses none of my proposals, for example, my call for an expanded free trade zone at the ports, a mortgage restructuring program to keep people in their homes, smart policing, and a new renewable energy authority all tied to a jobs training program. What do the leading candidates' mailers have to say other than finger-pointing and listing Oakland's problems? We actually offer solutions like ways to roll back these and [illegible] parking meter increases.

Marcie Hodge, Oakland

Uh, Watch the Debates

I have to wonder if anyone who's posted a comment has actually BEEN to any of the Mayor's candidate forums and SEEN Ms. Hodge in action?!?! I HAVE! and I have to say that this article rings TRUE. Yes, she's pretty. She IS smart. But she is ill prepared to speak for HERSELF, much less on behalf of the city of OAKLAND! I'd been wondering HOW she could afford the media coverage she's had when NOTHING she has said supports her as truly qualified and capable of being MAYOR. Now I know. It's deeply disappointing!

Rev. Shekinah Savage, Oakland

The Square Needs a Grocery

Everyone who lives in the area wants a Trader Joe's, Lunardi's, or other high-quality grocery store to take over the Barnes and Noble building so that they do not need to drive to Alameda or Lake Merritt for groceries. This would bring foot and shuttle traffic to the area, especially given the scarcity of full-service grocery stores in downtown. Rumor is that the developers either are prohibited by contracts with prospective "Marketplace" retailers. This is a big mistake. A grocery store would benefit the "marketplace" since it would draw additional people who desire a "one-stop" location.

Ruth Strauss, Orinda

A Legacy of Waste

Where does all that money go? A legacy of waste in UC Berkeley Chancellor's Office lost on President Yudof. The budget gap has grown to $150 million, and still the chancellor is spending money on $3 million consultants. His reasons range from the need for impartiality to requiring the consultants' "thinking, expertise, and new knowledge." Does this mean that the faculty and management of the greatest public system of higher education in the world lack the knowledge, integrity, impartiality, innovation skills to come up with solutions?

The consultants will glean their recommendations from faculty and the management that hired them, yet $150 million of solutions could be found internally if the chancellor and Provost Breslauer were doing the work of their jobs. The victims of this folly are faculty and students; $3 million consultant fees would be far better spent on students and faculty.

There can be only one conclusion: Chancellor Birgeneau has lost credibility and the trust of the faculty and Academic Senate leadership. Contact your representatives in Sacramento.

Milan Moravec, Walnut Creek

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Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

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WHOREGATE REALLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN PENSIONGATE

Meg Whitman sold out one of her core principles, but the media focused on a "gaffe" by one of Jerry Brown's staffers

By Robert Gammon

Meg **Whitman** has made public employee pension reform a touchstone of her gubernatorial campaign. The ex-**eBay** CEO has talked openly about switching public workers to 401(k)-style accounts. And she's accused her Democratic rival **Jerry Brown**, of being in the pocket of Big Labor. But late last week, news broke that Whitman had allegedly struck a backroom deal with law enforcement unions that would protect their pensions in exchange for their endorsements. Whitman and the unions denied making such a deal, but Whitman has dropped law enforcement from her reform plan, and cops' unions throughout the state are now endorsing her.

Normally, a revelation about Whitman apparently selling out one of her supposed core principles to get elected would have been good news for Brown. But instead, it turned into a nightmare. That's because the mainstream media decided to focus not on what Whitman had done, but on a voicemail message that Brown accidentally left in which one of his staffers can be heard calling Whitman a "whore."

It was yet another example of reporters treating campaigns as if they're sporting events. In this world, "gaffes" outweigh substance. So a Brown staffer using a salty expression to accurately describe Whitman is "news," but Whitman selling out her principles is not.

Whitman and her supporters gleefully feigned outrage, claiming that calling someone a whore insults all women. Yet how quickly they forget that ex-Governor **Pete Wilson**, one of Whitman's top advisors, once made the same charge, calling Congress in 1995 "whores to public employees unions." Hmm. Don't remember much right-wing outrage about that.

Over the weekend, speculation swirled that it was Brown's wife, **Anne Gust Brown**, who used the W word. Gust works with Brown on his campaign, and the person on the voicemail was a woman. If it was Gust, that might erase some of the shrillness the story generated.

Whoregate was a godsend for Whitman. It turned attention away from Nannygate and Brown's five-point lead in the polls. It also allowed her and **Carly Fiorina** to skip a **Sarah Palin** rally without fear of stories about the growing schism within the GOP and how California's Republican torchbearers are suddenly running away from the Tea Party Mama.

Another Lame Budget

After a record 100-day-stalemate, state lawmakers finally passed a budget deal on Friday that appears to rely mostly on smoke and mirrors, longtime *Sacramento Bee* columnist **Dan Walters** noted. The budget package is only "balanced" because it depends on unrealistic revenue projections and puts off spending until next year. It was the best that Sacramento could come up with after Republicans refused to raise taxes and Democrats resisted deeper spending cuts.

The budget deal almost unraveled because of legislators' efforts to load it up with pork for their own districts, the *LA Times* reported. Then, before Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** signed the package into law, he used his line-item veto to slash nearly $1 billion in spending from the deal. The move immediately drew criticism from progressive groups because the last-minute cuts didn't target pork — they mostly targeted services for low-income residents, reported **Daniel Weintraub** of HealthyCal.org.

But Schwarzenegger did come away with a victory last week. He reached a tentative pension deal with **Service Employees International Union**, the state's largest public employee union, the *Bee* reported. The deal calls for current state government workers to kick in an additional 3 percent toward their pensions. The giant union also agreed to unpaid furloughs one day a month — the equivalent of a 5 percent pay cut. In exchange, the governor agreed to spare the union from additional future furloughs. The SEIU represents nearly half of all state government workers.

West Oakland to Get Grocery Store

West Oakland took a step closer to finally getting a supermarket last week when the city council approved changes to its eminent domain policy, the *Oakland Tribune* reported. **Kroger Foods**, a national supermarket chain, wants to open a discount **Foods Co.** store at West Grand Avenue and Market Street, but had been stymied by city rules limiting the use of eminent domain in the area. The city plans to use eminent domain to buy private property and then sell it to Kroger so that low-income residents in West Oakland will finally have access to fresh, healthy food. Councilwomen **Jean Quan** and **Rebecca Kaplan**, who are both running for mayor, voted for the eminent domain changes.

Three Dot Roundup

Scientists with the **California Air Resources Board** dramatically overestimated the amount of pollution generated by diesel engines, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. The errors caused the board to overestimate diesel-caused pollution by at least 340 percent. ... Ex-BART cop **Johannes Mehserle** is asking for a new trial, claiming that the jury should have heard evidence about a Kentucky cop who allegedly shot a suspect with his gun when he meant to use his Taser, the *Tribune* reported. A Kentucky grand jury refused to indict in that case. ... And thieves stole seven bronze stars from the **Oakland Hills Firestorm Memorial**, apparently because recyclers pay $4 per pound for bronze, the *Trib* reported. It was the second time in three years that thieves stole metal objects from the memorial. ■

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog. 92510

LEGALIZATION NATION

FACEBOOK CO-FOUNOER TOSSES $50K TO PROP 19

Plus: AG Candidate Cooley may block will of voters, and Oakland pot farm permitting gets less transparent.

By David Downs

Facebook's bipolar relationship with **Proposition** 19 activists got a little better last week. The site is both crucial to the Yes on 19 campaign, yet has rejected their ads. Now one of Facebook's own is giving Prop 19 some cold hard cash. **Legalization Nation** broke the news that Facebook co-founder **Dustin Moskovitz** — whom *Forbes* says is worth $1.4 billion — has kicked in $50,000 to the Yes on 19 effort to decriminalize cannabis in California, according to mandatory late contribution reports.

Moskovitz was the CTO and later VP of Engineering for Facebook, the sizzling hot web site and subject of new film ***The Social Network***, where actor **Joseph Mazzello** plays his character. He attended **Harvard University** for two years before moving to Palo Alto to work full-time at Facebook. He's also the co-founder of San Francisco tech company **Asana**. Moskovitz now ranks among Prop 19's biggest individual funders in a campaign notable for its lack of big name donors like anti-prohibition activist **George Soros**.

National media promptly jumped on the news item. Subsequent stories reported that Moskovitz has contributed $100,000 in total donations.

Once thought to be a million-dollar affair, Prop 19 has emerged as the low-budget action thriller of the 2010 California election. According to a **Field Poll**, a startling 84 percent of the electorate is aware of the measure, a figure well more than twice as high as the second best known proposition on the ballot.

Both sides have received and spent fractions of the millions of dollars usually spent on ballot measures, yet a war of words rages daily in the press. As absentee voters vote by mail, the initiative is polling ahead in most polls, on course to win by a small but significant margin, assuming voters show up November 2.

Local would-be cultivator **Jeff Wilcox** chipped in another $25,000 to the Yes on 19 campaign, and smaller amounts of contributions have been coming in from Prop 19's creator **Richard Lee** of Oakland. Lee had told Legalization Nation that he was done spending on Prop 19, but politics, like Facebook, can prove addictive.

On the no side, several politicians and lobbyists of all stripes have contributed to the No on 19 campaign, run by professional lobbyist **John Lovell** out of Sacramento. Aspiring sheriffs for Burlingame and Fresno, along with a San Mateo police lobby and the **San Manuel Band of Mission Indians** have kicked in $61,000 to the No on 19 campaign this October. The yes campaign is on track to have out raised the no side by a factor of 10:1, mostly through small donations and individuals, instead of lobbies.

Comment Cut From Permitting

The **Oakland City Council** is planning on cutting public comment out of its historic plan to permit the country's first licensed medical cannabis farms. During its Tuesday meeting, councilmembers said they prefer that public comment on potential permittees occur only after the council had selected who would get the city's coveted permits. Typically, neighbors and other citizens speak before local government issues permits for all types of development.

A who's who of Oakland insiders, many of whom have made contributions to city councilmembers' warchests, is expected to apply for the four coveted permits. Permits are scheduled to be issued by the council by January.

The council has created a mound of red tape around its "Request for Permit Application" process, and attempted to sort through it Tuesday, ultimately sending it back to the **Public Safety Committee** for tweaking. But the council apparently doesn't want to tweak the unusual idea that the public would only be able to comment on potential permittees after the council had chosen them. Councilwoman **Jean Quan** said the city was worried about organized neighborhood opposition to pot farmers.

"We thought that would be a mess because you could have people sabotaging each other by organizing each other's communities," Quan said at the hearing.

Staff member **Arturo Sanchez** noted that public comment usually happens before a permittee is chosen, as is the case with massage parlors, bingo halls, and what were once cabarets.

Seeds & Stems

California's absentee voters have begun sending in their ballots, but even if Prop 19 passes, Republican candidate for Attorney General **Steve Cooley** might try to stop it, the *Sacramento Bee* reports. "I really am strongly opposed to Proposition 19 for many reasons," Cooley said during a debate at UC Davis. "I would be inclined to advise that it is unconstitutional and pre-empted by federal law." A new poll released by **Reuters-IPSOS** shows Prop 19 down 43-53, but their sample was biased towards Republicans. IPSOS asked 223 Democrats and 223 Republicans how they would vote, but California's electorate skews sharply toward Democrats, according to voter data provided by the Secretary of State. Meanwhile, ***California Watch*** says the No on 19 campaign is scrambling to turn out the vote after being outfunded 10:1 by the Yes side. … ***Hot Tub Time Machine*** won "Best Comedy" at the ***High Times***-produced annual **Stony Awards** in Hollywood last weekend, **CelebStoner** reports. Other winners included: ***Holy Rollers*** (Best Drama), ***Cheech & Chong's Hey Watch This*** (Best Documentary), ***Breaking Bad*** (Best TV Show), ***The Boondocks*** (Best Animated TV Show), ***John Cusack*** (Stoner of the Year), ***Drew Barrymore*** (Stonette of the Year), ***Jack Herer*** (Special Achievement), and ***Jesse Ventura*** (Special Achievement). ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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FULL DISCLOSURE

PERATA APPEARS TO BREAK SEVERAL LAWS

The Oakland mayoral candidate cheated the last time he was in a close race, and now there's evidence he's doing it again

By Robert Gammon

The last time **Don Perata** was in a close election battle, he broke the law to win. It was 1998, and he was facing a tough fight against progressive Assemblywoman **Dion Aroner**. To beat her, he funneled an illegal $90,000 loan into his campaign just weeks before the election. Now, twelve years later, Perata is in another tough election fight, and our reviews and public records suggest that he's broken several campaign finance laws in his effort to win the Oakland mayor's race.

On June 30, Perata loaned his mayoral campaign $50,000 from his consulting company, **Perata Consulting LLC**, records show. Under campaign finance law, loans are considered contributions, and the individual contribution limit from a corporation is $700 in Oakland. Although it's legal for candidates to give or loan unlimited amounts of their own money to their campaigns, it's not lawful for corporations to loan or donate money in excess of established contribution limits — even if the candidate controls the corporation. "If the candidate wants to donate as much of his own money as he wants to his campaign, he can — but not from his company," explained **Bob Stern**, president of the nonpartisan **Center for Governmental Studies** in Los Angeles and former general counsel to the **California Fair Political Practices Commission** (FPPC).

Don Perata has done it again.

Perata was fined following his 1998 campaign against Aroner for violating election laws involving loans. Just weeks before that election, he wrote himself a $90,000 check from his dying father's estate and then transferred that money as a loan to his campaign account. The last-minute infusion of cash helped Perata barely defeat Aroner. The FPPC eventually ruled that Perata had broken the law and fined him $4,000. But the ruling and fine came well after Perata had been elected, and so it didn't change the outcome of the race.

Two of Perata's main opponents in the 2010 mayor's race, Councilwoman **Jean Quan** and **Rebecca Kaplan**, contend that he's doing the same thing now. "I think he figures he can just break the law and get away with it," said Quan, who has filed several complaints against the ex-senator with the **Oakland Public Ethics Commission** — complaints that likely won't be adjudicated until well after the election. "And I think he's betting that people won't care about it."

Recent polls show Perata barely ahead of Quan with Kaplan in third. "I think it shows that a candidate who was supposed to be the inevitable winner now believes he has to break the law to win," Kaplan said. "And what does it say about what he really 'believes about Oakland?' He must 'believe' that the voters of Oakland are pretty damn stupid."

Perata's campaign manager **Larry Tramutola** did not return a phone call seeking comment for this story.

Public records and interviews also suggest that Perata may be illegally using funds from a statewide campaign committee to finance his mayoral campaign. **David Manson**, a staffer for Perata's **Hope 2010** committee, has been working on the former senator's mayoral campaign even though he's only being paid by the committee. Records show that Manson has received no pay from Perata's mayoral campaign while earning at least $46,025 this year from Hope 2010, which is supposed to sponsor a 2012 ballot measure that would tax cigarettes to fund cancer research.

Perata broke the law to defeat Dion Aroner.

But Manson has been a very visible presence throughout Perata's run for mayor. The ex-senator even dispatched his employee to appear on his behalf at one of the mayoral debates, Quan and Kaplan said. It made for an odd set-up with Manson appearing alongside the race's other nine actual candidates. "David Manson shows up at almost all the events," Kaplan noted. Perata himself has skipped the vast majority of Oakland mayoral debates.

It is illegal for a candidate to use resources from a ballot campaign to assist his run for office. And yet, earlier this year, Perata used cancer committee funds to pay for a mailer that talked about cancer research but appeared designed to enhance his mayoral bid. The two campaigns also share the same Oakland office and several of the same staffers. After this newspaper reported the ways in which Perata was blurring the lines between the two campaigns, Quan filed a complaint with the city's Ethics Commission.

In a short phone interview, Manson maintained that he's a staffer for the cancer committee, and said he merely volunteers for the mayoral campaign. He compared himself to Quan's city council staffer **Sue Piper**, who also volunteers for her campaign.

It would be illegal if Quan was paying Piper from her council budget to work on her mayoral campaign. But Piper said she's a stickler for keeping her council work separate from volunteering on Quan's mayoral bid. She said, for example, that she sometimes receives questions about the mayor's race on her council office e-mail or phone and then tells people to communicate with her on her personal e-mail account and her personal phone. She also sends e-mail press releases about campaign events from her personal e-mail account and talks to reporters about the campaign on her personal phone. "I keep it very separate," she said.

There's also one big difference between Piper and Manson. Piper actually works for the city and earns her pay, but it's not at all clear what, if anything, Manson does for the cancer committee. Piper is a part-time council policy analyst who examines issues and proposed legislation. On the other hand, Manson's cancer committee does not appear to be involved in any active campaigning right now since the measure won't be on the ballot until November 2012. Asked exactly what he does for Hope 2010, Manson curtly replied, "That's not your business, sir," and ended the interview.

Perata Exceeds Cap

Perata's campaign has spent at least $594,000 in his attempt to become the next mayor of Oakland, thereby demolishing the city's expenditure cap of $379,000, according to campaign finance reports filed last week with the city clerk's office. It was the first time that a political candidate has ever exceeded Oakland's spending limit. Perata contends that he can ignore the cap because a Sacramento group with close ties to him has gone over the cap as well. That group, **Coalition for a Safer California**, which is run by a longtime Perata friend and is funded by the ex-senator's best donors, reported that it had spent at least $137,000 trying to get him elected.

However, Quan and Kaplan noted that it appears from campaign filings that Perata may have exceeded the city's spending cap before Coalition for a Safer California did. If so, then Perata broke Oakland law. The filings show that the Coalition for a Safer California reported that it spent more than the city's $115,000 cap for independent committees on September 16. But Perata's TV ads, which reportedly put him over the cap, too, started appearing right around the same time.

Kaplan, who is also now running ads on cable TV and ran them during her 2008 campaign for council, said that **Comcast**, Oakland's cable provider, requires payment before the ads air. "They told me it's a hard-and-fast rule," Kaplan said. "So reading the reports, it certainly looks like he [Perata] may be breaking the law."

Quan, meanwhile, reported raising $319,000 and spending $193,000 to date. She also reported loaning her campaign $155,000. Kaplan reported raising $139,000 through September 30 and spending $124,000. She also reported loaning her campaign $34,200. And, as with Quan, most of the contributions Kaplan received were small, $100 and $200 donations from Oakland residents. Perata, by contrast, received numerous maximum donations of $700 to $1,300 from individuals and groups outside the city.

Joe Tuman, who has been running fourth in the polls behind Perata, Quan, and Kaplan, reported raising $64,000, most of them small donations from Oakland residents. He reported spending $23,000 through the end of September. He also reported loaning his campaign $13,000.

Finally, Perata and several of his allies have been saying on the campaign trail that **Ron Dellums** also exceeded the spending cap during the 2006 mayor's race. But city records show the claim is false. Although Dellums originally reported spending $419,000 in the race, he later amended his campaign finance report, saying the campaign had made several overpayments that were subsequently refunded. In the end, Dellums reported spending $341,000 in total on the race. The city's spending cap that year was $343,000. ●

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Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

ENDORSEMENT

KAPLAN, QUAN, AND TUMAN FOR OAKLAND MAYOR

The best way to make sure that one of these three candidates wins is to vote for all three in some combination

Oakland is blessed this year with three impressive mayoral candidates — Councilwomen **Rebecca Kaplan** and **Jean Quan** and college professor and news analyst **Joe Tuman**. They're all extremely smart and passionate about turning Oakland into the city it can and should be. And we're taking the unusual step this year of endorsing all three.

Rebecca Kaplan

We initially intended to do a ranked-choice endorsement in recognition of the new voting system in Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro. Voters will get to select their top three candidates for each office — instead of picking just one. But after separate one-hour interviews with Kaplan, Quan and Tuman, we couldn't agree on who we should pick first, second, and third. And all three candidates agree enough on the issues to make one of the other two the best replacement for whichever candidate you prefer.

We really like Kaplan and her positive vision for Oakland. She's full of great ideas, she understands the importance of smart growth, and she's the only candidate in the race who has a proven record of bridging political differences between Oakland's business and progressive communities. We also respect her many accomplishments during her successful — albeit short — tenure on the city council. In less than two years, she's led the ongoing effort to tax and regulate medical cannabis and the successful campaign to reform Oakland's woefully out-dated nightclub and cabaret laws. She also was the driving force behind the new free Broadway shuttle, which connects uptown and downtown with Jack London Square.

Jean Quan

We're also very impressed with Quan. She's a hardworking, dedicated public servant who really understands the ins-and-outs of Oakland city government. She's also hardnosed, and we're confident she has the intestinal fortitude to take on the many powerful factions in the city. We're also pleased that she has had the courage during the mayoral campaign to go toe-to-toe with ex state Senator **Don Perata**. Over the years, most Oakland politicians have been too scared to call out Perata for his unethical behavior because he has a record of later seeking revenge.

Joe Tuman.

As for Tuman, he shares many of Kaplan and Quan's best qualities. The San Francisco State political science professor and former news analyst for KPIX TV and KCBS radio is disarmingly intelligent and like Kaplan, he's a gifted public speaker who has a positive vision for Oakland. He also very persuasive one-on-one. And like Quan, he's extremely hardworking and tough as nails. We also like the fact that as an outsider who says he has no ambitions for higher office he will be beholden to no one if elected and able to take the strong, courageous stances needed to turn Oakland around.

Finally, there's another important reason for our decision to endorse all three candidates instead of ranking them. Simply put, we think electing Perata as mayor would be a grave error. He's proven throughout his long political career that his top priority is not bettering the lives of East Bay taxpayers but lining the pockets of his friends, family, and donors — (see our anti-endorsement "25 Reasons Why You Shouldn't Vote for Don Perata," below). Recent polls show that while Perata has a slight lead over Quan, with Kaplan running third and Tuman running fourth, the ex-senator is vulnerable. He has trouble getting second- and third-place

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ANTI ENDORSEMENT

25 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULDN'T VOTE FOR DON PERATA

Read this if you're still thinking about making the ex-senator one of your three choices for Oakland mayor

1. He's Lazy. Don Perata appears to be no more interested in putting in the hard work needed to solve Oakland's problems than the current mayor. Oakland desperately needs a fully engaged leader with viable plans for fixing the city, but Perata has offered no detailed proposal for how to do it. And he's been a no-show in a vast majority of mayoral debates so far, leaving voters to wonder what he believes in. And when he does show up, he usually acts as if he doesn't want to be there, offering rambling overviews of city government and empty bromides about what he would do if he wins.

2. He's Corrupt. Perata's dizzying career of pay-to-play financial dealings convinced the **FBI**'s public corruption squad that he was guilty of criminal wrongdoing. They investigated him for more than five years and then, when local prosecutors declined to file charges, took their case to Sacramento. The ex-senator claimed he was the victim of a right-wing conspiracy, orchestrated by the **Bush White House**, but it was newspaper stories about Perata in the *Oakland Tribune*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *East Bay Express* that prompted the FBI to launch its probe. The vast right-wing conspiracy actually spared the senator — by making his case look politically inspired when it was not.

3. It's All About Don. Perata has attempted to portray himself as a down-to-earth politician. But records show he has spent more than $1 million of his campaign funds in the past decade on living large — throwing lavish parties, dining at upscale restaurants, relaxing at expensive hotels, and showering gifts on himself, his friends, and his donors.

4. The Raiders Deal. Perata was the behind-the-scenes architect of what is probably the worst financial debacle in Oakland history. In 1995, the city and Alameda County floated $200 million in bonds to finance a massive remodel of the coliseum to get the Raiders back from Los Angeles. The deal was supposed to cost taxpayers nothing, but the ticket scheme created to pay for the bonds flopped badly. And now Oakland taxpayers are on the hook for $10 million in debt payments a year through 2025. The total cost to the city and county is already more than $300 million and it will eventually top $600 million.

5. The Diaper Tax. Perata pushed legislation in Sacramento to levy a 25-cent tax on diapers after a company — **Knowaste** — claimed it had a viable plan for recycling dirty diapers and hired Perata's close friend and business partner **Timothy Staples** as a "consultant." The deal became a focus of the FBI probe because Perata shared property from his business partnership with Staples. An embarrassed Perata later dropped the legislation after the *Tribune* wrote about it.

6. Auto Insurance. Perata pushed state legislation to gut consumer protections for low-income drivers after the giant auto insurer **Mercury Insurance** paid $50,000 to a political committee that hired also his business partner Staples. The courts later ruled that Perata's bill was unconstitutional.

7. Foreclosures. Perata sponsored state legislation that would have killed Oakland's tough predatory lending law after receiving at least $200,000 in campaign donations from **Ameriquest**, the onetime nationwide leader in subprime lending. Oakland's law was designed to curb the practice of unscrupulous lenders giving home loans to people who couldn't afford to repay them. But Perata continued to take hundreds of thousands of dollars from Ameriquest, even after the attorneys general of 49 states, including California, charged the company with widespread fraud.

8. Oakland Bad Port Deal No. 1. The **Oakland Port Commission**, led by Perata's developer friends, **Phil Tagami** and **John Protopappas**, sold 64 acres of Oakland's public waterfront for just $18 million to developers **Reynolds and Brown** and **Signature Properties** — both of whom have pumped hundreds of thousands of dollars into Perata's campaign coffers. The land was never put on the market and the sale price was likely half of what it was worth. Perata later carried state legislation that cemented the deal.

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votes because he's such a polarizing figure. And so the best way to beat him is for you to select Kaplan, Quan, and Tuman — in any order you choose.

If you're still confused about ranked-choice voting, here's a helpful Q&A.

What is ranked-choice voting? *It's a new voting system in Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro that eliminates the need for expensive run-off elections.*

How do I fill out my ballot? *It's easy. Select your favorite candidate as your first choice. And then pick your next two favorites as your second and third choices.*

How exactly does the ballot counting work? *Let's say you pick Tuman first, Kaplan second, and Quan third. If Tuman has the fewest first-place votes of those three candidates when the ballots are initially counted, then he's eliminated and your second-place vote for Kaplan becomes a first-place vote for her. But if Quan is leading Kaplan, then your third-place vote for Quan becomes a first-place vote for her.*

What if I really prefer one candidate? *You can select just one person if you wish. But if you really don't want a certain candidate to win, then you also should make second- and third-place choices to help a less objectionable candidate beat him.*

Am I wasting my vote if I select Kaplan or Tuman first since they're running third and fourth in the polls? *No. Since they and Quan share more admirable qualities than any of the other contestants in the race, picking all three is the best way to ensure that your preference for one of them translates into a victory for your values.*

What if I don't like one or more of this newspaper's choices? *Then don't list them on your ballot — unless you're worried about Perata winning the election. Because Kaplan, Quan, and Tuman will each need plenty of second- and third-place votes if any one of them is going to beat the ex-senator.*

What if I like one of the other candidates in the race? *Then mark that person on your ballot, but remember to also select Kaplan, Quan, or Tuman if you don't want Perata to win.*

What if I like Perata better than one or more of the *Express*' three choices? *Read "25 Reasons Why You Shouldn't Vote for Don Perata" in this issue.* ●

Read next week's issue, October 20, for the rest of our endorsements.

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/endorsement

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

9. **Oakland Bad Port Deal No. 2.** The port commission, again led by Protopappas and Tagami, sold most of the publicly owned buildings in **Jack London Square** to developers **Hal Ellis** and **Jim Falaschi** for just $17 million — a fraction of their likely value. Falaschi has donated about $100,000 to Perata campaigns over the years. Again, the buildings never went on the market. Perata was Falaschi's former employee. And as senator, Perata ordered a state audit of the port's real estate holdings that the commission later used to justify the sale.

10. The Road to Nowhere. Perata helped steer at least $40 million in taxpayer funds to build a road from the Oakland Airport to a half-empty business park in Alameda that appeared to only benefit his close friend and big donor **Ron Cowan**. The deal also was part of the FBI probe.

11. Billboards. Perata carried state legislation that allowed his longtime close friend and faithful donor **John Foster** to erect a series of billboards outside the Oakland Coliseum.

12. Oakland Schools Corruption. After then-Oakland schools Superintendent **Dennis Chaconas** refused to hire a Perata crony in 2002, Perata sent Chaconas a threatening e-mail, referencing the horse-head-in-the-bed scene from *The Godfather*.

13. The Three Rs. After Perata and then-Oakland Mayor **Jerry Brown** raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help reform Oakland schools, the senator took more than $30,000 from that effort and dumped it into his senate campaign account. Then he spent $40,000 from that same account to buy a luxury box at the Coliseum, where he hosted a giant party for his friends and campaign donors.

14. Mobster. In addition to the *Godfather* threat to Chaconas, Perata has purposely featured the image of a mobster. Friends and foes have called him "The Don," he conspicuously carried a gun around with him, and he kept a life-size cutout of **Tony Soprano** in his senate office. He also posted a plaque in his office that read, "The Peratas," written like the logo from *The Sopranos* with a handgun in the place of the "r."

15. The Prison Lobby. As president pro tem of the state senate, Perata helped shield the powerful California prison guard's union from budget cuts, even though California prison guards are among the highest paid in the nation. Then after Perata was termed out of office at the end of 2008, the California prison guard's union hired him as a "political consultant." The union has paid him at least $460,000 since then even though it has mounted no political campaigns during that time. The union also financed two hit piece mailers that were full of falsehoods against two of Perata's main competitors in the 2010 mayor's race — Councilwomen **Jean Quan** and **Rebecca Kaplan**.

16. Sacramento Incompetence. People often say, "Yeah, I know Perata is corrupt, but he gets things done." But it is a myth. In 2004, this newspaper conducted a thorough analysis of every bill he had introduced in the state senate and discovered he had one of the worst records in Sacramento for getting his legislation passed into law.

17. Money Laundering Part I. Perata and various political campaigns closely associated with him paid more than $1.2 million to the senator's son, **Nick Perata**, for work as a "consultant." The elder Perata then collected office-space rent from his son and his son purchased two homes from him. These deals also were a focus of the FBI probe.

18. Money Laundering Part II. Perata had a similar relationship with his business partner Staples. Various political campaigns closely associated with Perata hired Staples as a "consultant." Staples not only was Perata's business partner, but he also hired Perata separately as a "consultant" and paid him more than $100,000 a year. Perata later severed his business ties with Staples after the *Chronicle* published stories about it.

19. Money Laundering Part III. Several years ago, Perata launched a campaign committee, saying he planned to run for the state **Board of Equalization**. He raised hundreds of the thousands of dollars for that campaign, which he never pursued, but then spent the funds on living large and his legal defense during the FBI probe.

20. Favors for Friends. After Perata ended his business dealings with Staples, the senator's longtime close friend and confidante **Sandra Polka** suddenly became one of the highest paid political consultants in the state — even though she apparently isn't very good at it. She made more than $1.4 million from 2004 to 2006 from Perata's campaigns and those closely associated with him, while many of the candidates she tried to get elected ended up losing.

21. Illegal Campaigning. In 1998, Perata broke state campaign finance law in order to win a close race for the state senate. Now there's evidence that he's breaking the law again. See "Don Perata Appears to Break Several Laws" in this issue.

22. Unethical Campaigning. In 1998, Perata also convinced progressive Alameda County Supervisor **Keith Carson** to run for the state Senate, against fellow progressive Assemblywoman **Dion Aroner**. Perata told Carson that he had no plans to run himself, but then, after Carson jumped into the race, Perata did too. Aroner and Carson split the progressive vote, thereby helping Perata win the race. Now, several black Oakland leaders think he's making a similar move this year. See "The Baffling Mayoral Bid of Marcie Hodge," 9/29/2010.

23. The Cancer Campaign. Perata has been blurring the lines between his mayoral campaign and **Hope 2010**, a political committee he runs that is supposed to support a 2012 ballot measure that would tax cigarettes to fund cancer research. The two committees share the same office space and several of the same consultants. The cancer committee also paid for a glossy mailer sent to Oakland voters earlier this year that seemed designed to enhance Perata's mayoral bid. It is illegal for a candidate to use funds from a ballot measure committee to assist his run for office.

24. Buying the Oakland Mayor's Race. Perata has blown the lid off Oakland's campaign expenditure limit of $379,000, spending more than $600,000 in an effort to win the mayor's race. It's the first time that an Oakland political candidate has ever exceeded the city's spending cap. Perata contends that it's legal for him to do so because a Sacramento group with close ties to him went over the spending limit for independent committees, too. The group, **Coalition for a Safer California**, is run by a longtime friend of the ex-senator and is funded by his best donors and the state prison guard's union.

25. No More Stories by Robert Gammon. The final reason for not putting Perata on your ballot — no more stories about the ex-senator from *Express* reporter Robert Gammon. Well, at least not as many. ●

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ELECTION 2010

BLOOD SPORT IN THE RICHMOND MAYOR'S RACE

Personal disclosures about Mayor Gayle McLaughlin push aside consideration of the city's major progress in recent years.

By John Geluardi

Last week, Mayor **Gayle McLaughlin** stood before a bank of television cameras in the plaza of Richmond's newly renovated civic center to respond to something that has become a civic tradition — ruthless political mudslinging by the city's police and fire unions.

The unions had dug up a 2003 bankruptcy filing in which McLaughlin sought to be discharged of $100,000 in student loans. In the filing, McLaughlin claimed she was unable to make payments because "serious psychiatric disabilities" prevented her from working full time. She also said that she received disability payments and that she had been prescribed various medications to cope with sleeplessness, seizures, and depression. McLaughlin later told reporters that she was hospitalized twice in 1969.

Gayle McLaughlin

Through a political action committee called **Richmond First**, the two public safety unions paid a researcher $15,000 to find the document and then disseminated its contents through a web site, a thirty-second television ad, and the unions' favorite weapon of choice — the rounds of glossy mailers emblazoned with large unflattering pictures of the mayor.

Surrounded by two Richmond councilmembers and a phalanx of her supporters, last week McLaughlin told reporters that the bankruptcy filing was unsuccessful and that she continues to pay off the student loan. She incurred the debt in the early 1990s while obtaining a bachelor's degree in psychology and later working to get her master's, which she did not receive. She also admitted, without giving specifics, that in the 1990s she had overcome personal adversities that included depression, debilitating illnesses, family deaths, and being the target of a series of crimes.

"My health and personal finances suffered as a result," she said. "But that is all in the past. I believe my past challenges have strengthened me and made me a wiser and more compassionate woman, leader, and public servant."

Police union representative **Joey Schlemmer** said it was the union's duty to expose McLaughlin's personal financial struggles. "The public scrutinizes public officials before casting their vote," he said. "These are public documents and that is to inform the public. The people should be able to make a decision for themselves."

The unions' political attack came during the last month of a tough mayoral campaign. The 58-year-old McLaughlin is facing two challengers who come from the ranks of the city's old guard. The public safety unions have endorsed Councilman **Nat Bates**, a retired probation officer. The 78-year-old Bates was first elected to the council in 1967 and has served a total of 31 years with one 12-year hiatus from 1983 to 1995. The other challenger is **John "Z" Ziesenhenne**, the CEO of **M.A. Hayes Insurance Company**. Ziesenhenne served on the city council from 1982 to 1993. He has been an active member of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and has served on its board for many years. He is largely considered to be as pro-**Chevron** as Bates, although Chevron itself has not yet publicly backed a candidate.

No one has come forward to say that McLaughlin has demonstrated any mental instability during her six years on the council. Bates declined to comment on McLaughlin's behavior, saying that would be inappropriate and that it's better for voters to make their decision based on the issues and differences between the three mayoral candidates.

However, McLaughlin ally Councilman **Tom Butt**, who has served on the council since 1995, said he has never seen any sign of instability in McLaughlin's performance. Butt said McLaughlin is always well prepared for council meetings and argues effectively for her issues. "She is fair-minded, even-handed, and is willing to compromise when necessary," Butt said. "She's been a good council member and a good mayor. In fact, if somebody told me that one of the councilmembers had a history of mental illness and I had to guess which one it was, Gayle would be way down on the list."

ELECTION 2010 WEEK 2

For Richmond's political left, McLaughlin has been a breath of fresh air. She has championed a progressive agenda and given voice to political perspectives that were traditionally squashed by the city's special interests — including, most notably, the public safety unions and Chevron. On the other hand, Richmond's old guard sees McLaughlin as an interloper who has upset long-standing business practices and challenged the primacy of the political block that has dominated city politics.

In the 1990s, the public safety unions held firm control over the city council through the aggressive campaign tactics of fire union president **Darrell Reese**, a retired fire captain, political boss, and convicted felon. Reese is often credited with making an art form of hit piece mailers like the one directed against McLaughlin, which dominated city politics through the 1990s. Reese would send three glossy mailers attacking his political opponents at set intervals during the last weeks of a campaign. Reese's mailers were known for their ruthlessness, distortions of the facts, and resounding success.

It is ironic that it was the police and fire unions that attacked McLaughlin, given the havoc they wreaked on the city's budget in past years. By 1997, Reese and the police and fire unions had gained control of city politics. Reese had been directly responsible for electing five of the city's nine councilmembers and they were as beholden to his political skills as they were afraid of his wrath. In 1997, he used his influence to promote Richmond native **Isiah Turner** to city manager. Turner was a questionable choice. Years earlier, when he was employed by the state of Washington, state

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auditors discovered that Turner had misused $22,000 of public funds — mostly on travel expenses. Turner quickly resigned and left Washington state under a veil of shame.

Turner's six-year reign as Richmond's city manager was characterized by incompetence, mismanagement, and influence peddling. In 2003, he suddenly announced that his doctor had advised him to resign for undisclosed health reasons. Just days after he moved to another state, it was discovered that he had left behind a hidden $35 million budget deficit. The impact on city services was devastating. The county took over the city's management and was forced to close senior centers, community centers, and libraries. More than 250 city employees were laid off, roads and public buildings fell into disrepair, and the city lost its credit rating, which made it impossible to invest in the future.

Nat Bates.

When the California State Auditor issued a report looking into the crisis, the conclusion was that the major cause of the city's financial catastrophe was excessive police and fire union contracts.

Richmond voters first elected McLaughlin to the council in 2004, when the city was struggling to recover from this economic devastation. It would be inaccurate to credit McLaughlin with the city's remarkable recovery, but her election was a strong indication that city voters were fed up with the political cronyism, special interest greed, and lack of transparency that nearly ruined the city.

In 2005, Orinda City Manager **Bill Lindsay** came to work in Richmond. He hired all new department heads, including Finance Director **Jim Goins**. Under their leadership, the city is now in better shape than most others in the Bay Area. Working with the council, city officials have brought new business to town. Most significantly, the city cut a long-term, lucrative deal with **Honda** to offload cars from ships at the Port of Richmond and transfer them to trains. The city also negotiated a utility tax deal with Chevron in which the refinery will pay $115 million to the city over the next fifteen years.

The result is that while San Francisco and Oakland fret over their inability to hire police officers, Richmond has added ninety new officers to its ranks. The city also has regained its double-A plus credit rating and has a reserve of $9 million. The city has completed numerous public works projects such as the $100 million renovation of its civic center and a retrofit of "The Plunge," an 85-year-old enclosed public pool that is considered one of Richmond's architectural gems.

Over time, the old guard began to lose influence over city politics. The public safety unions and Reese, who was convicted of felony tax evasion in 2001, could no longer handpick city officials or dictate their own salaries and benefits. Chevron lost influence as well. The international oil giant was no longer able to conduct its own inspections of refinery construction projects. And its special deals, such as paying a greatly reduced utility tax, were openly challenged by McLaughlin and others on the council.

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With Richmond's renaissance, city leaders were able to redirect their focus to issues such as crime, blight, and instituting more sustainable practices. Today, homicides are down by about 60 percent, the city is thriving economically, and the city's roads, public buildings, and parks are now well maintained and a source of civic pride.

It is on green issues that McLaughlin has had her most significant impact. McLaughlin has championed expansion of youth job-training programs, raised the percentage of Richmond residents to be hired on city-contracted work projects, and taken a leadership role in challenging Chevron to be more environmentally responsible and to increase their tax base. But her largest accomplishment has been expanding Richmond's solar capacity. She co-founded **Solar Richmond**, which has trained hundreds of city residents, mostly disadvantaged youth, to install solar panels on homes and businesses. The program offers solar installation at reduced cost to low-income homeowners and has won numerous awards. Richmond now ranks among the top fifteen cities in the state for highest solar capacity.

While her critics admit her dedication to solar issues has paid off in green-collar jobs, they say she is too much of an opponent to traditional business. Bates said that she voted against the Honda port contract, which will bring in $88 million to the city over the next fifteen years, and that she voted against the new **Target** outlet that has brought hundreds of jobs to Richmond. "She's green and green only," Bates said. "We need jobs in Richmond and I'm for creating green jobs and more traditional jobs. I want to explore all possibilities."

According to Butt, McLaughlin voted against the Honda port deal because the environmental impact report was flawed. As a result of a subsequent lawsuit, a court required failures in the report to be addressed. Once they were, McLaughlin supported the contract, Butt noted.

John Ziesenhenne

Ziesenhenne said that creating jobs will be his main focus if he is elected mayor. However, Ziesenhenne has not taken a public stand on a large casino proposed for **Point Molate**, a scenic stretch of mostly undeveloped shoreline on Richmond's northwestern shore. He said he is waiting for voters to have their say in an advisory vote this November. "I am waiting for them to have their say and I will 100 percent stand by their wishes," he said. Bates supports the casino and McLaughlin opposes it.

The former councilman distanced himself from the personal attack on McLaughlin. "The debate should be over the issues," Ziesenhenne said. "It's hard not to be critical of your opponent's agenda, but I've never run any of my races like that."

McLaughlin supporters heavily criticized Bates for circulating her bankruptcy documents via e-mail. Bates said he was sorry the mayor had been in such an unstable situation, but that was not his responsibility. "I didn't create it," Bates said. "I received an anony

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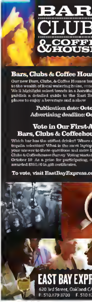

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nous e-mail and I sent it out to a few people and all of a sudden I'm the culprit?"

Whether the campaign tactic will be effective remains to be seen. It worked well for Reese in the 1990s, but in many ways Richmond is a different city now. At the Richmond Marina and around the Richmond BART station, there are whole new neighborhoods of condominiums occupied by young, educated professionals who are less likely to be swayed by blood sport-style politics. Very few refinery employees even live in Richmond any more.

McLaughlin said the campaign attack has given her campaign momentum. She has received hundreds of e-mails and a boost in campaign contributions. "These kind of attacks have gone on too long in Richmond," she said. "All it does is discourage good people from being active in public life and increases the cynicism people feel toward government." ●

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ELECTION 2010

WILL THE WELL DRY UP IN WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY?

Voters prepare to decide on another school tax.

By Ellen Cushing

In June, the voters of West Contra Costa County passed a $380 million school bond, its fifth in twelve years. Now, as another school tax hits the ballot — and as West County taxpayers continue to pay for those two bonds in addition to two parcel taxes, all amidst a flagging economy — some observers believe that taxpayers may finally say enough is enough.

"This is a school district that's truly out of control," said **Kris Hunt**, executive director of the **Contra Costa Taxpayers Association**. "They just never seem to get enough. This district really needs to rein in its spending just like the rest of us."

But the way **West Contra Costa Unified School District** Superintendent **Bruce Harter** sees it, with the state in fiscal crisis and the district facing a multimillion-dollar budget gap, his back is against the wall. "Our board put that on the ballot after devastating cuts from the state," Harter said. "This is the only way to keep our programs where they are right now. The state is horribly underfunding education and has been for years. We're scraping to maintain programs and services."

The parcel tax, better known as **Measure M**, which needs a two-thirds majority to pass, would charge an annual tax of 7.2 cents per square foot of building area or $7.20 per vacant parcel for the next five years. The funds would go toward general fund operating costs in Richmond, El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole, San Pablo, and surrounding towns, Harter said, and the money would go toward lowering class sizes, improving school safety and cleanliness, and supporting various academic and arts programs.

Harter said the district has already made all the cuts and found all the redundancies that it can but is still coming up short. "We've been making budget cuts for the past five years," he said, pointing to recent furloughs and the end of lifetime benefits for staff. "We've already made all the hard decisions."

Hunt, however, said there are still cuts to be made. For example, the district has seen a significant drop in enrollment in recent years and Hunt suggested that it close its many small neighborhood schools. (Harter noted that 60 percent of districts have experienced such drops, and that demographers have estimated that West Contra Costa's enrollment will increase again in 2012.)

"It's simply time they learned to live with less," Hunt said. "They need to quit asking more and more of people. So has the school district gone to the well one too many times, asked too much of their voters? That remains to be seen."

Right now, it's looking razor-close: June's school bond, **Measure D**, passed with just 63 percent of the vote, which wouldn't have been enough if bond measures needed the two-thirds majority that parcel taxes do. Moreover, parcel taxes tend to be a tougher sell for voters than bond measures, as they explicitly call themselves "taxes," and as the revenue they raise goes into the general fund, which is more abstract than the tangible construction and improvement projects funded by bond measures. A July phone survey commissioned by the district found that with a 4 percent margin of error and a sample of 600 voters, 33 percent would "definitely" vote yes, 27 would "probably" do so, and 6 percent remained undecided. ●

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ELECTION 2010

A BUSY STREET IN EMERYVILLE

The ambitions of Ikea and the city's schools intersect on 53rd Street.

By Angela Kilduff

Two upcoming civic decisions could make one Emeryville neighborhood a very different place. And that's what some residents are worried about.

On October 19, the **Emeryville City Council** will consider a neighborhood's outcry against **Ikea**'s ambitions. The Swedish retail giant wants to open a second facility at 53rd and Hollis streets, where customers would pick up items paid for at its Shellmound Street store. The 60,000-square-foot warehouse would receive deliveries daily and be open seven days a week.

Meanwhile, the November 2 vote on **Measure J** could bring even more traffic to 53rd Street. If passed, the $95 million bond measure would provide funding to replace **Anna Yates Elementary School** and **Emery Secondary School** with a new, seismically sound facility for K-12 students. The so-called **Emeryville Center for Community Life** would be located on the west side of San Pablo Avenue between 47th and 53rd streets, where Emery Secondary School is now located. A city redevelopment agency memo envisions the facility as "a full-service community center for all ages which will incorporate the **Emery Unified School District** schools, the city's recreation and programs for seniors, and other community services."

Following the August 26 planning commission meeting at which the new Ikea facility was approved by a 4-3 vote, a group calling itself the **Ad Hoc 53rd Street Neighborhood Committee** appealed the commission's decision. It argued that the facility would not be consistent with the city's general plan to make Emeryville "a livable, walkable, sustainable urban community." The appeal opposes the proposal on the basis of zoning — the parcel is zoned for office/technology — and because the business will be a nuisance to residents and the traffic will be a hazard for cyclists.

However, the committee hasn't taken any kind of position on Measure J, which needs the approval of 55 percent of Emeryville residents to pass. The **Green Party** of Alameda County opposed it with reservations, saying the proposal lacked grassroots input. And the proposal comes only two years after Anna Yates was renovated at a cost of $9 million, improvements that more than doubled the size of the campus using money from the school district's redevelopment fund and developer fees.

On a chilly recent evening, three members of the neighborhood group gathered at the proposed site of the Ikea warehouse. **Bayer HealthCare** and **Novartis** are right across the street, but by 7 p.m. traffic had subsided. Jacqueline Asher worries about weekday traffic. She works at the Emeryville Child Development Center, whose entrance is directly across from the driveway that Ikea customers would use. Given that there are 80 to 100 kids in daycare and preschool every day and parking for parents already scarce, Asher is concerned about the impact of absent-minded customers paying attention to their GPS. "That's scary," she said.

A narrow alley separates the warehouse from **Emery Bay Village**, a 112-unit condo complex. Its residents began organizing against Ikea in July, when they learned about the proposal before the planning committee. They circulated a petition and gathered nearly 150 signatures. They're working hard to motivate people to attend the October 19 hearing. ●

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ELECTION 2010

DEVELOPMENT AT THE POINT DIVIDES CANDIDATES IN ALAMEDA

Choosing the right path forward is the main issue in the city's mayoral and council races.

By Michele Ellson

In Alameda, five people, including three sitting councilmembers, are vying for the mayor's chair being vacated by **Beverly Johnson**. Eight more are seeking one of two open council seats. But when all is said and done, Alameda voters could find the same five faces staring out at them from the dais.

Sitting councilmembers **Marie Gilmore**, **Doug deHaan**, and **Frank Matarrese** all hope to wake up as mayor-elect on November 3, as do former councilman **Tony Daysog** and perennial candidate (and professional clown) **Kenneth Kahn**. The list of council candidates includes Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman **Lena Tam**, businessman **Adam Gillitt**, Board of Education Trustee **Tracy Jensen**, Planning Board president **Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft**, Health Care District Board trustee **Rob Bonta**, open-space activist **Jean Sweeney**, and former *Alameda Journal* editor **Jeff Mitchell**.

Daysog said the redevelopment of **Alameda Point** is his top concern, while the three other major mayoral candidates — Gilmore, deHaan and Matarrese — listed Alameda's schools as a top priority. Meanwhile, most council candidates said redeveloping the point, attracting business, and keeping the city solvent were their main priorities.

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Voters are most likely interested in how mayoral and council candidates would seek to redevelop Alameda Point now that city leaders have sent the developer **SunCal** packing. And while the candidates have universally denounced the city's former development partner, their paths forward on the point diverge significantly, with some advocating SunCal's basic plan sans SunCal, and others looking to simply fix up and reuse what's already on the base.

Daysog, 44, a planner, said he would favor a plan similar to the one SunCal proposed. He said he envisions a "beautiful, well-planned, mixed-use community" with a mix of housing types, industry, and amenities built by a private developer. And he said he would lead efforts to amend the city's **Measure A** housing-density restrictions.

Council candidate Mitchell, 49, who worked with SunCal after voters rejected its development and business plan for the point at the ballot box, said he thinks the city should hire

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a developer to create a development similar to the transit-oriented, mixed use one SunCal proposed — albeit "with a serious and effective traffic mitigation plan." Tam, a 48-year-old water services manager for the **East Bay Municipal Utility District**, said she wanted a master-planned transit-oriented development on the point.

Mayoral candidate Matarrese, by contrast, said he thinks the city should take full control of the point by establishing a nonprofit city run corporation to develop it. The 55-year-old business owner whose second term on the council concludes this year thinks redevelopment efforts there should focus on job-creating light industry. He said he'd look at lifting Measure A for "worthy" projects. And council candidate Jensen, 49, a senior services administrator for the City of Oakland, also supports the creation of a nonprofit local development corporation, which she sees building a mixed use development. She said she'd let the voters decide whether to change Measure A.

Tony Daysog

Marie Gilmore

Other candidates want to proceed with a mixed used plan with less housing than SunCal hoped to build. Gilmore, a 49-year-old attorney who has sat on the council for six years, said she would have the city drive the process for creating a plan for developing the point that includes commercial projects, recreational opportunities and a "sensible housing plan" that wouldn't require a Measure A amendment. Attorney and council candidate Ezzy Ashcraft, 58, said she'd like the city to create a similar mixed-use plan on its own and shop it to developers to build while council candidate Bonta, 39, an attorney for the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, said he's interested in a city-driven plan that includes retail, an entertainment district, light industry and other businesses, open space and other amenities, and less housing than SunCal proposed. Ezzy Ashcraft would seek to change Measure A for the point and Webster Street, which city leaders are working to improve. Bonta said he'd let the voters decide whether to change it.

Meanwhile Sweeney, a retired teacher, wants a local development corporation whose plan "recognizes the city's traffic limits and works within those limitations." Gillitt said he doesn't want to see homes at the point at all, and that he'd prefer a plan that focuses on reusing the former Naval base's existing spaces to generate income for the city.

DeHaan, a business consultant who has been on the council for six years and currently serves as the city's vice mayor, said he thinks the community should come up with a new plan for Alameda Point.

Johnson didn't respond to a request for comment.

With SunCal drawing accusations that it's attempting to influence the election by running television ads and sending mailers attacking Interim City Manager **Ann Marie Gallant** — who has been strongly championed by Johnson in particular — candidates were almost universally quick to point out they wouldn't be taking money from SunCal or any other developer. And some went a step further, saying they'll only take contributions from locals. Jensen, for one, said she turned down money from friends off the island.

Gilmore and Tam took $5,000 and $2,500, respectively, from the local firefighters union, which has been at odds with Gallant over staffing and benefits. Matarrese raked in $5,000 from Assemblyman **Sandré Swanson** and another $3,000 from the local carpenters union. Johnson transferred more than $63,000 from her failed supervisorial bid, which had included a $10,000 donation from local developer **Ron Cowan**. DeHaan, by contrast, picked up a host of small local contributions, and Bonta took contributions from friends, family members and colleagues from all over California and other states.

Gilmore, Bonta and Tam have picked up key endorsements, earning the nod from the local and county Democratic clubs, the **Alameda Labor Council**, Alameda firefighters, and others.

The city's unfunded pension liability is another major issue on the island, with most candidates saying they'd seek to negotiate fewer benefits, at least for new employees. Daysog said he'd ask public employees to take furlough days and to switch to a 401(k) or similar plan, which private employees have. Tam and Mitchell said they would look at municipal bonds as a way to help finance the benefits.

Transparency at City Hall is also an issue. DeHaan and Johnson had pushed for new campaign finance reform rules just as candidacy papers were being filed for the November 2 race, a move some criticized as a late-game rule change that would benefit incumbents but deHaan has defended as something that Alameda needs to do in order to catch up with other Bay Area cities.

Tam wants the Sunshine Task Force she championed to continue work on a new ordinance that would make city government more open, which Mitchell — who is on the task force — has made a key element of his campaign. Jensen and Sweeney also said they'd support an ordinance.

Doug deHaan

Frank Matarrese

Gillitt said he'd work on technology upgrades for the city, which faced criticism after city leaders said they destroy e-mails after thirty days because they don't have the computer storage space to retain them for longer. And Gilmore, Ezzy Ashcraft, Mitchell, and Bonta said they'd work to make council meetings — which often extend into the wee hours of the morning — end earlier or to allow the public to weigh in earlier in those meetings.

Tam said she's most focused on preserving Alameda's quality of life, while Jensen said she'd like to get Alameda's now fractious council to start working together. After all, election season opened with the dramatic conclusion of a leaks investigation into councilwoman Tam, who was cleared by District Attorney **Nancy O'Malley**. It also included a nasty confrontation between council candidate Gillitt and an elderly wheelchair-bound voter registration volunteer, although no charges were filed.

On the topic of schools, over which the mayor has little actual authority, Gilmore said she would work with the community to determine what steps need to be taken to keep schools open and class sizes small and that she would support an "equitable" parcel tax. Matarrese and deHaan didn't offer specifics, though Matarrese has been active in efforts to find city money to maintain high school playing fields. Kahn did not respond to requests for comment. ●

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ELECTION 2010

BUDGET CUTS OVERSHADOW ALAMEDA SCHOOLS RACE

In the wake of recent cuts, candidates must cut another $13 million unless taxes are raised.

By Michele Ellson

If the six candidates for two open **Alameda Board of Education** seats need any skill for their trusteeship of the **Alameda Unified School District**, it will be the ability to swim, because whoever takes the seats will be diving into a sea of red ink.

Faced with massive state funding reductions and voters' narrow rejection of a parcel tax that district leaders hoped would replace those lost funds, the school board made more than $7.2 million in cuts this year that included increasing class sizes and shuttering schools for an extra week. And they are working on plans that could close more than half the schools Alameda Unified operates by 2013.

District leaders are preparing a fresh parcel tax proposal that they hope will help them stave off additional cuts of up to $13 million over the next two years, as well as a package of cuts, including school closures, that they'll make if voters say no. The parcel tax decision will be made before board members are seated on December 14, although their support would undoubtedly be critical to getting a new tax passed. The decisions on school closures and consolidations will happen the night the new board members take office.

Those in line to make the decisions include incumbent **Mike McMahon**, retired Alameda Unified administrator **Marjorie Sherratt**, labor negotiator **James Pruitt**, parent and businessman **Clay Pollard**, businessman **Rand Wrobel**, and parent **Sheri Palmer**.

All of the candidates who responded to requests for comment said they'd support a new parcel tax. Both Sherratt and McMahon said they'd support a tax based on building square footage, with McMahon saying at a recent candidate forum he'd look at a tax of 20 cents to 25 cents per square foot. Pruitt said he'd support a tax that has more consensus than **Measure E**, a split roll tax that failed in June and earned the wrath of commercial property owners who called the tax unfair because it charged them far more than homeowners would pay. Pollard said he would also support a fair, short-term tax that is specific with voters about what it will be spent on.

Palmer didn't respond to requests for comment. Wrobel also didn't respond, though he said on his web site that he would support a fair, equitable tax that doesn't charge commercial and residential properties different rates, as Alameda's Measure E school parcel tax does now.

Pruitt said he'd find it tough to support closures and consolidation of schools and increasing class sizes and that he'd work to bring a fresh perspective to the board. Pollard, meanwhile, said he would cut and consolidate where he could and that he would seek out business partnerships and ask parents to volunteer more in schools. Pollard, who was a vociferous opponent of the board's decision to teach an anti-gay bullying curriculum in elementary schools, said he wants the district to focus on the basics of reading, writing, and math.

McMahon, who said the biggest problem facing the district right now is a "sense of despair" over what's going to happen with Alameda's public schools, said he'd like to consider restructuring Alameda's secondary schools and having just one high school on the Island. Sherratt said she'd like to see the district expand its offerings and save money by ditching textbooks in favor of online courses, and she'd like to see Alameda Unified develop stronger partnerships with California State University, East Bay and community colleges.

Wrobel has said he thinks the district can save money if it converts all of its schools to charters. ●

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ELECTION 2010

THE MILLION DOLLAR BABY

The price is high in the race for a vacant seat on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

By Steven Tavares

The race for Alameda County supervisor comes down to one donor: **Bill Lockyer**. The state treasurer, himself up for re-election this fall, has contributed more than $1 million to the campaign of his wife, **Nadia Lockyer**, in what has become the most expensive supervisorial race in Alameda County history. The cash haul has largely overshadowed anything of substance in the candidate's race against former state Senator **Liz Figueroa** to replace the retiring **Gail Steele**.

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California State Ballot Propositions
Prop 19 **Yes**
Prop 20 **No**
Prop 21 **Yes**
Prop 22 **Yes**
Prop 23 **No**
Prop 24 **Yes**
Prop 25 **Yes**
Prop 26 **No**
Prop 27 **No Recommendation**

Local Ballot Measures
Measure F **Yes**
Measure L **Yes**
Measure X **No Recommendation**
Measure V **Yes**
Measure W **Yes**
Measure BB **NO Recommendation**

FPPC #790500 FEC # C00402651
MGO Democratic Club holds general membership meetings every third Thursday of the month. For more information, visit our website at www.mgoclub.org

County supervisor elections do not have fund raising limits, which has allowed the Lockyers to almost fully fund a campaign relying on large outlays to political consultants and staff. Financial disclosure forms filed last week showed that Bill Lockyer's campaign for treasurer pumped an additional $450,000 in donations to his wife's campaign, pushing the total amount of cash over $1 million. And this doesn't include in-kind contributions such as web site construction, child care, and staff.

By contrast, Figueroa's campaign has raised about $86,000 this year and last week reported just $12,000 in remaining cash. If elected, Figueroa said her first course of action would be to stem the flow of huge sums of unfettered campaign dollars.

"Can you buy an election?" Figueroa asked, lamenting that well-financed candidates such as Lockyer will edge out qualified leaders from ever getting involved in the election process. "If we open the floodgates to this type of money, it will only be the beginning and people like the Lockyers can just help colleagues and family members as much as they want."

Katie Merrill, a consultant for the Lockyer campaign, dismissed Figueroa's charge, saying she is merely attempting to change the conversation away from a biting mailer sent last week by a former county tax collector essentially calling for Figueroa to pay her back taxes.

Despite the vast spending discrepancy the campaign has been spirited, featuring calls by the Lockyer campaign for Figueroa to pay delinquent property taxes and accusations she did not live in the county. Figueroa says she is on a payment plan with the county and says she lives in Sunol, which is within the boundaries of the District 2 seat she hopes to win. Not to be undone, Figueroa accused Lockyer of being unfamiliar with the district when she scheduled a fund-raiser with a prominent Latino businessman who was accused by his wife that he abused her and their young son. Lockyer ultimately did not attend the event, and called the move by Figueroa "punk politics."

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Nadia Lockyer.

The state of county finances could also be described in a similar manner. The winner will inherit a budget that continues to reel from steep cuts to staff and important county services. The current board of supervisors recently closed a $152 million deficit through additional cuts to social services and short term concessions from labor unions. Whoever prevails will likely tackle similarly excruciating decisions in the next year, and both candidates have campaigned on their past experiences in delivering government efficiency.

"It's only going to get worse," Figueroa said. When asked last month during a candidates forum in Hayward if she would pledge to not make cuts, Figueroa declined, calling it a "false promise" and faulted lawmakers in Sacramento for repeatedly dipping into the coffers of local municipalities. Lockyer was equally vague on how she would stabilize the county budget, saying, "We can be more efficient." She said she would try to return services amid extremely large deficits, but added, "I will not cut vital services unless those inefficiencies have been met."

As executive director of the **Alameda County Family Justice Center** since 2007, Lockyer says she saved the county more than $1 million during her tenure. A trained lawyer, Lockyer toiled at the **Santa Ana School District** in Southern California before marrying her husband in 2003. Through the primary and general election, she has described herself as the only candidate with experience as head of a county program.

Liz Figueroa.

Figueroa, on the other hand, has been in public service for nearly as long as Lockyer has been alive — 30 years — and represented the area in the State Senate from 1998 to 2006. The boundaries of District 2 are nearly identical to those of the senate district she once served. During her time in Sacramento, Figueroa was notable in passing three pieces of legislation that later became blueprints for national models. Her bill extending the hospital stay of newborns and their mothers greatly increased the health of babies and was lauded by President **Bill Clinton**. Figueroa was also behind "Do Not Call" legislation and procuring insurance for underprivileged children, which coincidentally, she noted, included campaigning with then state senator Bill Lockyer. Figueroa and Bill Lockyer were once a well-known item in Sacramento circles in the 1990s, which has added a certain tabloid subtext to the entire race. In the meantime, both Lockyer and Figueroa have taken strides to highlight their varying degrees of experience.

"These are not times we can start with inexperienced personnel," said Figueroa, who added, "It's about experience, not on-the-job training." Figueroa said Lockyer, through her limited experience in the county, has not "paid her dues" as a consistent local advocate. For her part, Lockyer has repeatedly said she would create "leadership teams" to keep her abreast of various issues and locales in the district. The mantra has forced some at the county level to scratch their heads in confusion.

"I never pretend to know it all," Lockyer said last month, but that sentiment contrasted with images she constructed during the primary when she once admonished Figueroa and former opponent and Hayward City Councilman **Kevin Dowling** for not knowing enough. At a Fremont forum attended by both Figueroa and Dowling, Lockyer told a questioner how they could get themselves help instead of personally directing the person to the county services. "I wouldn't just give you a phone number to call," she said. "I would try my hardest to personally get the information you needed."

An open seat on the board of supervisors is a rare occurrence, so the tough tenor of this race is understandable. Lockyer likes to say voters are yearning for a new voice. But while she may be a new voice, there is a familiar old name behind her campaign. ●

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ELECTION 2010

PROP 21 SEEKS TO AID STATE PARKS IN PERIL

But is taxing motor vehicles the right solution to an obvious problem?

By Nate Seltenrich

Despite their differences, both sides of the **Proposition 21** debate agree on a few key points: California's parks are state treasures, they're in generally poor shape due to persistent underfunding, and something needs to be done, soon. That's a fair amount of common ground, but the similarities end there. Proposition 21's idea is simple: solve the budget shortfall by taxing each vehicle in the state an additional $18, forking the proceeds over to the parks and granting all Californians free access. Thanks largely to a distaste for ballot-box budgeting, however, opponents don't feel the ends justify the means. Yet a vote either way carries even more baggage the two campaigns are willing to admit.

To Prop 21 co-author and **California State Parks Foundation** president **Elizabeth Goldstein**, it's been evident for years that California's state parks might be in need of rescue. From a maintenance point of view, she said, the parks department has been underfunded for nearly three decades — at rates as low as 40 to 50 percent of its need. A few years ago, the department began keeping a maintenance waiting list, and to date has accumulated $1.3 billion in deferred projects, said Goldstein, who now serves as the **Yes on 21** campaign treasurer.

But it wasn't until Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** threatened to close 48 parks in January 2008 that the public started paying attention. "That was a trumpet call across the entire field," Goldstein said. "That initial proposal really shocked a lot of people." The proposal was withdrawn, but the following May, Schwarzenegger proposed cuts for 220 of the state's 278 parks. Ultimately, $14.2 million was trimmed from the department's budget, which led to the partial closure of approximately sixty parks and service cuts to another ninety.

The East Bay's most prominent state park, **Mount Diablo**, has seen significant cuts, said **Ron Brown**, executive director of **Save Mount Diablo** and board member of the **Contra Costa Council**, both of whom have endorsed Prop 21. Visitor kiosks at the park's two main entrances have been abandoned, and the museum atop the mountain is now staffed by volunteers. Campgrounds and restrooms have been closed, work has been left unfinished, and Save Mount Diablo has begun to donate equipment and supplies to the state park, including $900 in steel piping for water lines at a restroom facility, and an ATV for patrol access.

"This is not the ideal way of funding our state parks," Brown said of Prop 21. "But this is the methodology that seems to make the most sense. The citizens of this state have invested hundreds of millions of dollars to preserve these state treasures, and the state government has been unable to maintain them."

Goldstein and her foundation started gathering signatures in January, and had 750,000 names by spring. Prop 21's plan to tax every vehicle in California (except those above 10,000 pounds) an additional $18 would generate $500 million a year. But not all of that would be headed to state parks: Additional funds have been earmarked for marine preserves, state conservancies, river parkways, and wildlife conservation throughout the state. Existing state funding of $133 million would be returned to the general fund, and since Californians would now be granted free access to parks, the parks department would forfeit another $50 million or so in revenues. Still, Goldstein estimated that the net funding headed to parks would wipe clean the deferred maintenance list and, with more cars going on the road every year, sustain the department for at least twenty years.

Wendy Nelson of the **No on 21** campaign says she'd love to see the parks restored and fully funded. "If the maintenance backlog is truly as bad as the yes folks are saying, we should be furious with the legislature for letting this happen," she said. However, she believes that passing a proposition to obtain funding through a car tax sets a dangerous precedent.

"Funding should be coming from a place that's a direct benefit, like a user fee," Nelson said. "When you fund something with a vehicle license fee, you're going to get into an issue of 'Why don't we fund libraries and why don't we fund community colleges?' So we're really opening up the floodgates if we allow that type of funding mechanism to go in."

Another problem with dedicating a funding source to a specific department, Nelson said, is that it further restricts the legislature's ability to move money around during the budget-writing process. "It's just bad public policy," she said. "You're basically tying their hands, and they can't adjust based on the needs of the state."

There's no denying that Prop 21 gives special treatment to state parks, and may lead down a road some Californians are unwilling to travel. As a result, the question facing voters becomes more complex: Are parks and related properties such as museums and historical buildings valuable enough to be set up as an exception? And is it wise to rework their funding mechanisms so completely? Supporters insist parks are worth the effort, and that the money grab would be mitigated by the return of $133 million to the general fund. Yet opponents' principle-based, fiscally conservative rejection of the proposition certainly has teeth — especially in the age of the **Tea Party**.

But if voters reject Prop 21, are they cutting off their nose to spite their face? What happens if state parks continue underfunded for another three, five, or ten years? It's likely a bleak picture. "If funding doesn't get secured for the state parks system, parks will be closed down and made inaccessible to the public," said Goldstein. Even temporary closures are serious business: there's often a huge hurdle to reopening a park, including repairing deteriorated structures, cleaning vandalism, and clearing out the marijuana-growing operations that are all but sure to move into unsupervised parkland. The price tag of reopening parks and properties would only increase the burden on our state's budget. Without a timely solution, Goldstein said, "There's no reason to believe that things are going to get better. They're only going to get worse." ■

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ALAMEDA
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Northern
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Alameda County Transportation Commission
offices located at 1333 Broadway, Suite 300 in Oakland

Thurs. • Oct. 21, 2010 • 6:30pm

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Imprisoned, Rehabilitated, Unemployed

Oakland's large population of ex-felons struggles to get jobs. And its only glimmer of hope, a certificate of rehabilitation, isn't easy to get. Just ask Hawk Jonsson.

By Alexa Vaughn

For the past fifteen years, **Hawk Aavan Jonsson** has been obsessed with becoming a firefighter. After graduating from a fire academy, he became a member of a volunteer firefighting team, began teaching and was eventually promoted to chief of the department. He earned an EMT license and seventeen other first responder certifications. A figurine of a firefighter helping a child sits next to his bed, as do a stack of firefighting equipment and textbooks. He lives across the street from a fire department. Even his girlfriend is a firefighter.

So in 2006, when he made it to the last round in the notoriously competitive application process for the **Oakland Fire Department**, Jonsson thought he was finally achieving his dream. But it turned out that no amount of experience was going to be enough, because the only thing on his résumé that mattered was the small box: "prior felony conviction."

It didn't matter that Jonsson had been out of prison for fifteen years and had lived a straight life. He was turned down because of his criminal past, which continues to haunt him.

Since his release from prison in 1996, Jonsson says he has never been able to get a job that paid more than $23,000 a year. "These positions always had a glass ceiling of pay and I was never able to get higher than I did at any one job," he said. "The stigma of my past is something that keeps holding me up, and I'm unable to do the things I want to do in my life, like have a family, children."

The forty-year-old Oakland resident is one of thousands of ex-convicts in California who struggle to find financial stability after incarceration. The problem is particularly magni-

Hawk Aavan Jonsson (left) dreams of firefighting, but his hopes dwindle every year.

Hawk Aavan Jonsson has taught firefighting skills to students, but can't get a job himself because of his [illegible]

find in Oakland, which has a large population of ex-felons and a high unemployment rate. The fact that even Jonsson can't catch a break despite actively trying to succeed and not reoffending since being released is indicative of how challenging the situation is.

"He was a great leader and great teacher to the other volunteers," said **Jeffrey Matthews**, chief of the **Bloomfield Volunteer Fire Department** and a former colleague of Jonsson's. "He's passionate about his work and he's passionate about turning his life around. They call it the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Hawk Jonsson is this shining example of what prisoners can come out of prison like. Why they don't choose to use him as a success story just dumbfounds me."

Rejected by the Oakland Fire Department, Jonsson believes his last hope is to earn what's called a certificate of rehabilitation. Granted by a superior court judge, the document doesn't erase a person's record, but it declares them "rehabilitated."

No statistics are available on how attaining a certificate of rehabilitation improves one's employment odds or salary, but Jonsson is willing to try his luck. Even though the certificate's value is questionable, he doesn't know what else to do.

Jonsson was born in Oakland in 1969. He doesn't reveal much about his childhood other than the fact that he was raised by a mother he admires. His real father, however, was not in the picture, but an abusive stepfather was. Whatever happened at home led him to leave for Southern California after high school in 1988. He went to diving school, but with new freedom came partying. At first, he was only smoking marijuana. But one night he says he unknowingly used pot laced with cocaine.

Soon he was pawning every possession he could for the new, top priority in his life — crack cocaine. Then he ran out of everything he had. So he joined a group of people fixed with the same addiction and ended up robbing two homes and pawning off the stolen goods. After serving two years in jail for the crime, he got out and this time got hooked on meth. In 1992, police eventually caught him on the street with the drug strung out of his mind, as Jonsson recalls. For a moment prosecutors threatened him with the three strikes law that could put him in prison for life, but then settled on a sentence of seven years, which was eventually reduced to four with good behavior.

His exposure to firefighting came while he was serving time. During his last year of prison, he battled a wildfire at **Konocti Conservation Camp**, a job training camp jointly operated by **the California Department of Corrections** and **the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**. It was there that it became clear to him: Firefighting was his calling.

"That last year of incarceration changed everything for me," Jonsson recalled. "It gave me a whole new sense of purpose in my life that I'd never had before."

Since that time, Jonsson says he has become a completely different person. With the help of family and a Native American brotherhood, he explored some of the internal reasons why he started doing drugs. He saved money from minimum wage jobs and student loans in order to attend college and a fire academy.

But life wasn't easy. Without a car, Jonsson was forced to bike as much as fifteen miles to and from work. In 2003, he was hit by a car and had to have surgery on both legs, as well as his shoulder and elbow.

Because he had no health insurance, Jonsson had to wait two years for those operations. In the meantime, he still had to rely on the only kind of transportation and form of physical rehabilitation he could afford — his bike. So he got back on it.

Toni Landers, a friend and former Santa Rosa Community College roommate, said she remembers how much it inspired her to watch Jonsson pull himself together after the accident. "He's talked me through a lot of tough times because he's so good at keeping his mind on the right track no matter what happens," Landers said. "I'm always telling myself, 'If Hawk can do what he does all the time, then I can do this.'"

Jonsson's half brother, *Oakland Tribune* Editor **Martin Reynolds**, says that even as he struggled to make ends meet, Jonsson took care of everyone in the family. Sometimes that meant planning a family barbecue or organizing an intervention for an uncle whose health was drastically declining.

"He wasn't some hardened guy even then," Reynolds said. "It's very upsetting to the families of ex-convicts who have loved ones who have done the work to take their place back in society but just can't get it."

Jonsson sees a career in emergency response as an opportunity to redeem himself through heroism. But the odds that the forty-year-old can be hired as a firefighter before his physical prime disappears have already dwindled to a slim chance. And it shrinks exponentially every year.

It's hard to quantify the long-term effects of barring ex-felons from all kinds of jobs. No government or private entity appears to keep employment statistics about them. But **All of Us or None**, a national advocacy group for the formerly incarcerated with a chapter in San Francisco, estimates that the unemployment rate among ex-felons is as high as 60 to 80 percent. The few who do get jobs usually have salaries similar to or worse than Jonsson's, according to the group. With few job options, many parolees reoffend. California has the nation's highest recidivism rate, at 70 percent.

In Oakland, which receives about 2,035 of the 3,500 parolees entering Alameda County every year, the unemployment rate has ballooned to nearly 20 percent — almost twice the national rate. It's even higher in East and West Oakland.

Making matters worse, employers punish ex-felons equally, no matter what their conviction or how long ago they served their time. Jonsson has to check the same felony conviction box on job applications as someone who just got out of prison. Yet a 2009 **Carnegie Mellon** study found that ex-convicts who stay clean for at least five years are no more likely to commit a crime again than the general population in their own age group. Most employers never know the difference, since looking at a background check isn't required in most of California, including Alameda County, with the exception of a few government jobs.

"It should be that if I do my time, I don't owe anyone anything more," said **Dorsey Nunn**, co-founder of All of Us or None. Nunn, who lives in East Palo Alto, has led national campaigns to ban the felony conviction box on job applications so that applicants are considered more thoroughly before being dismissed. "We're denying a whole lot of opportunity to people trying to turn their life around because when they get out of prison, we're telling them, 'Oh, by the way, your punishment lasts forever.'"

"Ban the box" laws — which force employers to look at an ex-felon's actual record instead of only a checked felony conviction box — might help ex-felons find better employment in the future. But so far, their popularity has been minimal. Massachusetts just joined Hawaii in banning the box on public and private job applications, but it doesn't look like California is close to doing the same.

Jonsson believes that obtaining a certificate of rehabilitation is the only thing left that could help him. That document, which is generally available to ex-felons who have served time in a California prison, can be especially helpful when an ex-felon is being reviewed for jobs in the health sector. And because fire departments are gradually making it mandatory or preferable to get an EMT certificate or paramedic license, obtaining the certificate is especially important for Jonsson. The certificate also may relieve some offenders from having to register as a sex offender.

But getting one isn't easy. It requires positive testimonials and a detailed investigation by the county district attorney's office. The process can often take longer than four months, and some ex-felons seek legal representation. Jonsson paid at least $2,500 for his lawyer.

The document is granted by a county superior court judge who certifies that an ex-felon has kept his record clear of misdemeanors and felonies and his life headed in the right direction for two to five years, depending on past convictions. Still, the document does not free recipients from the requirement of disclosing felony convictions to employers.

And judges don't hand them out lightly. Out of the more than 250 ex-felons who applied for the certificate of rehabilitation in Alameda County in the last year, only seven received them — a high number according to Alameda County Deputy District Attorney **Greg Dolge**. The California Governor's office would not release numbers of how many have been granted statewide.

The certificate can become much more, though. Once granted, it's immediately forwarded to the governor's office for consideration of a full pardon. That gives ex-convicts full government security clearance and frees them from checking felony conviction boxes on job applications. Jonsson said he was told that a full pardon was the only way he'd be considered for a position within the Oakland Fire Department, but **Daniel Berlant**, a representative from **Cal Fire**, said fire departments throughout the state can use their discretion to accept applicants depending on their prior convictions.

In any case, what's clear is that earning back a respectable spot in society isn't easy. "Society can't afford to hold back people like Hawk," said his half-brother Reynolds. "He's the man who'll run into a burning building and save a life. Let him do that, put a fork in him, he's done. What do you do with someone like him? Just lock people into the cycle no matter what they do?"

After several years out of prison without reoffending, Jonsson believes he's rehabilitated. But Greg Dolge, deputy district attorney for Alameda County, isn't convinced.

Dolge's office coordinated an investigation and novel-length report concluding that Jonsson shouldn't be granted the certificate of rehabilitation. Though Jonsson legally qualifies for a certificate because he hasn't reoffended for more than five years, the law ultimately leaves it to the discretion of the state judicial system whether or not it will be granted.

After Dolge informed Jonsson earlier this year that he would not get the DA's recommendation for the certificate — despite his résumé, high GPA, and positive testimonies from friends, family, co-workers, and bosses — Jonsson hired a lawyer to fight Dolge's point of view.

Granted, Jonsson admits he isn't without his faults. They include driving without insurance twice and lying about his unemployment status. Dolge dwelled on the last count because he said it demonstrates Jonsson's dishonesty.

"Telling the truth is the minimum that's required on an application for the certificate of rehabilitation, and Hawk did not do that," Dolge said. "Applying for a certificate is very similar to applying for a job with a federal background check. If you apply for a job and lie on the application and don't get that job, do you blame that employer?"

Driving without car insurance is one of Jonsson's regrets. "I was working at a company for $11 an hour, and there were points where I couldn't keep it up, riding my bike 22 miles a day each way," Jonsson explained. "But I really was beyond my means driving. The cold hard fact was I realized it's better to do public transportation until I can get something paying at least $15 an hour."

As for the second point, Jonsson says the truth is more complicated. He says that while working for a private paramedic company, he was called "nigger." Yet after he complained to his supervisor, he was demoted from medic to driver and instead negotiated a lay-off with his employer. But when he applied for unemployment benefits, he found out that his employer told the **Employment Development Department** that they fired him, tangling Jonsson in a fraud case. Jonsson still maintained that he was not fired on his application for the certificate of rehabilitation, even though legal

Susan Burton got a certificate of rehabilitation but hasn't used it since. File

documents from the previous employer and the Employment Development Department show otherwise.

"I had no idea that continuing to believe in my side of the story was going to label me as a liar and undo everything I had done up to that point to improve my life," Jonsson said. "I'm never working for another private paramedic company again because of stuff like this. You have no union there to support you and then you get screwed over like this and can't do anything about it."

Certificates of rehabilitation may be the only way for ex-felons to get a chance, but even those who've received them say their merits are questionable.

"Have you ever seen a certificate of rehabilitation?" asked All of Us or None's Dorsey Nunn, who's also an ex-felon. "It's a big joke. It isn't anything I'd hand to an employer. If you think it gives you that credibility and the fuzzy feeling inside, it doesn't give you that fuzzy feeling. Would you get that if all I would hand you is a paper that says you went to prison three times and for how long?"

Nunn said he doesn't believe that ex-felons should have to be pushed to prove that they've been rehabilitated. "If I've served time in prison, I don't owe anyone anything else," Nunn said. While he encouraged some ex-felons to apply for the certificate, he says "no one was willing to get one."

"It might help you to get around the question of a license you're going for," Nunn continued. "But the government hasn't invested a dime in convincing anyone that anybody who gets a certificate is worth investing in. It's never been held out as if it were something meaningful to anyone else."

To Nunn, the more detrimental aspect of the certificate is the way it keeps everyone, including the applicant, wondering when they are a good enough person. "I know there's a lot more people worthy of pardons and clemency out there than those five who have gotten them in the last two years."

One of those who applied for a certificate was **Susan Burton**, who founded a re-entry housing nonprofit for women called **A New Way of Life** in Los Angeles. "I thought it would give me a better ability to get past my past," said Burton, who added that she was sick of being rejected from job openings. "I thought it would give me something legally to present myself with. I thought I would clear up any doubts about who I am."

Burton worked with a public defender and spent about four months preparing her case in 2004. She went through five courts to file papers having to do with multiple drug-related convictions she got while deeply depressed about the untimely death of her son.

Yet since receiving the certificate of rehabilitation, Burton said she hasn't used it once. The piece of paper sits in a file cabinet in her office. She's also received official notice that her pardon was rejected by the governor.

Meanwhile, she continues to get national attention for the rehabilitation services she offers in South Los Angeles. This year she was named one of CNN's top ten heroes in the nation.

"I had to create something that did not question who I am today and develop a niche and work towards that," said Burton. "It's not because anyone gave me a grand opportunity to redeem myself."

On a cold July morning, the room overlooking Lake Merritt at the **René C. Davidson Alameda County Courthouse** overflowed with defendants and their supporters. Jonsson, his mother, girlfriend, and other close friends waited among them.

It wasn't a place for much discussion. Simple words and phrases — yes, no, guilty, not guilty, denied, waived, granted — and hearing dates quickly bounced from lawyer to Alameda County Superior Court Judge **Morris Jacobson** as he scheduled hearings and sentenced one defendant after another.

But Jonsson's case halted the pace. He and his lawyer, **John McCurley**, had spent weeks gathering positive testimonials for their side, even postponing the hearing date to better prepare a rebuttal to the DA's negative recommendation and five-page chronology of his rehabilitation.

Jonsson's heart sank when the first thing Jacobson said to him and his lawyer was, "I have not had a chance to read any of your papers, only the DA's report."

Jacobson said the most he could offer was a five-minute break to take a closer look at the defense's documents. After two and a half hours of watching a stream of defendants come and go from the room, only those involved in Jonsson's case remained. Jonsson anxiously waited with his supporters. Five minutes passed. Then ten. Then fifteen. Finally the judge returned, case files in hand.

Even after Jacobson returned to the courtroom and summoned prosecutor Dolge, McCurley, and Jonsson back, the judge took an extra minute to read over the papers spread in front of him, further dragging out the suspense for Jonsson's side. Jacobson then requested the DA's reason for denying a positive recommendation.

After Dolge reiterated that Jonsson had lied about a previous termination on the application for the certificate, McCurley attempted to elaborate on Jonsson's confusion over the termination of his employment at the time. But before the defense had a half minute to plead its case, Jacobson cut in and asked if Jonsson was in fact fired and incorrectly reported his termination to DA investigators.

"Yes," McCurley conceded.

Jacobson then concluded what Jonsson feared all along.

"I'm going to be looking for a longer period of a spotless record," the judge said. "I'm uncomfortable granting the certificate at this point."

Jonsson could barely open his eyes as he held the door open for the last people filing out of the courtroom. Then, for a moment, Jonsson's usual optimism gave way to skepticism over what society expects of him.

"The fact that he focused solely on the unemployment issue, it just shows he wasn't being fair," said Jonsson. "I see people in the White House get pardoned all the time and they ruin people's lives. And here I am. For fourteen years I've been a firefighting volunteer ... I don't really know what else

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Despite testimonials from family, friends, and co-workers, a judge rejected Jonsson's appeal for a certificate of rehabilitation.

they can ask for.

"It's hard to have faith in the justice system when I try to do right and I continue to pay," Jonsson said, with a quiver in his lips. "To be forgiven, that's all I wanted."

To his family, friends, and former colleagues, it's unfathomable that all their positive testimonies of his kindness, work ethic, and thorough rehabilitation could be outweighed in the hearing by Jonsson's dispute with a previous employer. "I live with him every day and he's a danger to no one," said **Dori Maynard**, who asked Jonsson to live with her after he served as caretaker for her dying husband, **Charles Grant Lewis**. "I cannot put into words how unfair it is to keep him from getting this."

"He did six years in prison, and that's no joke — he did his time," continued Maynard, who's president of the **Maynard Institute**, a journalism think tank. "It's very difficult to watch him now because he wants so badly to work. I wonder how many Hawks there are out there going through the same thing no matter what they do."

Weeks after his court date, Jonsson was moving on as best he could with another plan for becoming a self-sufficient part of society. Applying for another certificate in three years is still part of his plan, as is reporting he was fired from the medic job, even if he thinks it's false and unfair.

He stays in shape with P90X Workout videos to preserve his fitness level and a sliver of hope that he could still be a firefighter some day. He makes a little money doing odd jobs for friends. But Jonsson says going back to school isn't an option. "[I] can't really consider more education at this point because finances are so tight while living on unemployment," he said.

He thought briefly about joining the military after reading about waivers given to ex-felons. But more research revealed that the Department of Defense stopped giving what they call major misconduct waivers in the spring of 2009. Because of a combination of factors related to a declining economy, such as higher unemployment and more student loan debt, the number of recruits signing up for the army went up last year, said **Mark Howell**, deputy public affairs officer for the **United States Army Recruiting Command**.

Jonsson isn't sure what else he can do besides finding odd jobs or maybe even starting his own business using his diving skills. But a steady optimism always flies out from underneath mounting doubts about the future because it has to, he says.

"I believe that there is a much bigger purpose for me here in this world," he said. "And I definitely want to take full advantage of that." ●

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There's a new wave of fast food.

Chris Duffey

CULTURE SPY

FAST FOOD, FAST FORWARD

In the era of Slow Food, what's happening to fast food?

By Anneli Rufus

Fast food isn't what it used to be. It's still fast. It's still cheap. It's still served over squeaky-clean counters by polite, impersonal cyphers. But these days, sleek sassy startups as well as megacorporate Old Guard outfits are trying their hands at neo-fast food. Burgers and fries won't disappear anytime soon, nor should they. But now they share space with salads, smoothies, wraps, veggieburgers, caffe mochas, and reduced-fat, high-fiber, sustainably packaged Americanized ethnic treats.

This is fast food in the era of Slow Food. A new sensibility is spreading through a $170 billion industry, transforming menus and marketing schemes like some slowly advancing, pierced-eyebrowed army whose soldiers won't wear leather or eat cheese. Now that **Taco Bell** sells "Drive-Thru Diet" items and **McDonald's** uses grass-fed beef — not much, but it's a start — "fast food" and "junk food" are no longer necessarily synonyms.

The newest kid on the block is **Falafilo**. Its spic-and-span shop a few blocks from **Oakland City Hall** opened in July; shops in Berkeley and Richmond are set to open within weeks; CEO **Ernest Toraji** plans to open 1,300 shops nationwide and 200 in Canada within months. Based on a trade-secret recipe and methodology that Toraji says "takes falafel back to the pharaoh's time," Falafilo's signature sandwich is a 100 percent vegan falafel-burrito-pita hybrid. Diverging from familiar falafeldom, its chickpea filling isn't deep-fried. This keeps the calorie content per sandwich under 300. Sealed tightly inside a tortilla-ish pita, served with optional head-poppingly hot sauce, the contents don't gush out.

"You can eat my sandwich while riding a bicycle," beamed Toraji, a former Wall Street stockbroker. "You can eat it while you're skateboarding or jogging. You can eat my sandwich with one hand — actually, you only need two fingers."

That's a far cry from the flamboyant fare at **Maoz**, Falafilo's chief competitor in the Will America Ever Embrace Chickpeas? steeplechase. Both are highly ambitious falafel chains founded in Amsterdam in 1991, Maoz has expanded around the world. Its reasonably hip tiled, vegetarian franchise near UC Berkeley, open since March, has a salad-bar format sporting a dozen fresh-daily seasonal salads and sauces with free refills. Tasting like health itself, its cole slaw alone is worth the jaunt. Maoz stays open well after midnight.

"Falafel deserves a lot more credit than it's been getting in the United States," said Toraji, who hopes to raise its profile. "You can see how a culture changes right before your eyes. Fifteen years ago, if you told someone that someday he would line up to buy a cup of coffee for more than 50 cents, he would have said you were crazy. But now people line up to pay five dollars for a cup of coffee at Starbucks, and they find ways to justify that."

Ubiquitous elsewhere, falafel hasn't quite caught fire stateside. Maybe that's because it's messy. Maybe it still feels too foreign. Fast food wasn't born here. But starting circa 1921 with **White Castle**, a motorized, multitasking, meat-eating America boiled down the genre to burgers and fries. So enmeshed is this meal with our national identity that even vegans sometimes crave replicas.

That's what inspired **Amanda West** to open **Amanda's Feel Good Fresh Food** in downtown Berkeley two years ago. Serving beefburgers and cheeseburgers alongside house-made nutty veggieburgers and baked not fried white and sweet potato fries in 100 percent compostable packaging, the Stanford Business School grad patterned Amanda's after classic American burger joints such as **Oscar's**, a Berkeley standby for fifty years. Wisely, Oscar's now also serves a charbroiled onion-and-tomato-topped veggieburger so satisfyingly sloppy that it won't leave its eaters feeling ripped off or hungry. A rarity.

Megachains are scrambling to keep pace. Selected **Burger King** locations now sell **Morningstar Farms** veggieburgers. **McDonald's** and **Jack in the Box** now serve low- and nonfat fruit smoothies. Burger King, McDonald's, and **Popeyes** now serve salads and wraps. Even **KFC**, home of the 540-calorie, 32-grams-of-fat, 1,380-milligrams-of-sodium Double Down sandwich (bacon and cheese between two fried-chicken filets), now offers wraps, which it calls "Twisters." It smells like victory. It also smells like meat.

Burger King's two trademarked meal-sized salads are the Tendercrisp and the Tendergrill. Both include chicken and three kinds of cheese. BK's breakfast wrap is bacon packed. "Choose a snack wrap," thunders the web page promoting McDonald's wraps. You have three choices: Bacon & Cheese with Angus beef, Mushroom & Swiss with Angus beef, and Deluxe with Angus beef. It's a Spam Spam Bacon and Spam situation. While both the **San Francisco Soup Company** and **Jamba Juice** prove that fast food chains can make dubious adventurous and sometimes fleshless salads and wraps, their old guard counterparts evince a deep fear of scaring away carnivores.

Taco Bell has always served meat in tortillas, so at least it can't be accused of hypocrisy. In some ways, Taco Bell is the leader of the old guard fast-food pack. Sure, its standard menu is hardly artery-cleansing. Witness the 700-calorie, 2,100-milligrams-of-sodium, 30-grams-of-fat Grilled Stuft Beef Burrito. Even the meatless 7 Layer Burrito, which includes "reduced fat sour cream," has 510 calories, 1,420 milligrams of sodium, and 18 grams of fat. But Taco Bell's Drive-Thru Diet line, introduced late last year, features seven items with less than 350 calories and less than 9 grams of fat. Its scrumptious Fresco Bean Burrito has only 2.5 grams of fat. It's right out of **Subway**'s We-helped-Jared-Fogle-lose-245-pounds playbook. Another plus is that Albany's Taco Bell sports green innovations such as a solar-powered roof, low flow irrigation, and energy-saving lights and windows.

What's new about the new fast food isn't just heart healthiness, higher fiber, and semi-sustainability. It's also an aspiration for sophistication. In Europe, McDonald's operates a sub-chain of coffee-pastry cafes called **McCafe**. Stateside, McCafe manifests as a range of cappuccinos, mochas, and knockoff Frappuccinos made with 100 percent arabica coffee. (With 550 calories, 24 grams of fat, and 71 grams — that's about seventeen teaspoons — of sugar, a high-fructose-corn-syrup-spiked McCafe Caramel Frappe will rate several trips to the gym.) Burger King now serves 100 percent arabica iced mochas roasted in Washington State by **Seattle's Best**, a forty-year-old firm that was small and family owned before being bought in 2003 by — surprise — Starbucks.

Both boutique and actually better for you is **Nature's Express**, a truly remarkable, scrupulously vegan fast food chain founded by an Arizona oncologist committed to reducing America's cancer rate by improving what Americans eat. Baked fries join a range of meatless burgers on your choice of black bean, almond sunflower, lentil, Boca, and "chick-un" patties on whole-wheat or rosemary buns, along with international motifs such as carrot-cashew paté and a juicy tofu corn-quinoa salad.

"The vegetarian world will eventually gain more and more ground," mused Falafilo's Toraji. "Five years ago, the word vegan sounded like something extraterrestrial — but now more and more people are choosing to stay away from animal products, and even more and more meat-eaters are choosing to take a day off from meat eating now and then.

"I'm going to ride that trend for the next twenty years." ●

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Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

The cast of *The Room*

A Room of Our Own

The best bad movie you'll ever see comes to a midnight screening at Oakland's Piedmont Theater

When the *The Room* first opened in 2003, it was roundly panned. The few publications that deigned to review it said it was among the worst movies ever made, and the two LA theater showing it reported audiences walking out en masse just minutes into the film. Despite a $6 million budget — financed by director, producer, and star **Tommy Wiseau** — and a marketing blitz that compared the film to the work of **Tennessee Williams**, it grossed just $1,900.

But since then, something strange has happened. *The Room* has gained a curious and considerable cult following. It's become perhaps the first film in cinema history that boasts both universally negative reviews and a rabid fanbase. Midnight screenings that first popped up in Los Angeles have since spread across the country (and now, to the East Bay). Actors and comedians including Kristen Bell, David Cross, and Paul Rudd have professed their love for the movie, and countless **YouTube** tributes and parodies have been produced. In a 2008 *Entertainment Weekly* article about the phenomenon, a film studies professor in Minnesota described it as "the *Citizen Kane* of bad movies."

Which pretty much sums it up. This is a film that's not just bad in your standard box-office flop kind of way. It's amazingly, phenomenally, above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty awful. Characters and plotlines are introduced without explanation and then dropped unceremoniously. Wiseau's character speaks, inexplicably, with a bizarre, thick Austrian accent, and many of the scenes — set in San Francisco — take place in front of a comically cheap-looking green screen. "Really, it's indescribable," said **Nicole Galarza**, a manager at the **Piedmont Theatre** (4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland), which starts a series of midnight screenings of the film this weekend. "You kind of need to see it to believe it."

Galarza recalls the first time she saw it, when she and some former co-workers at San Francisco's **Clay Theater** screened it for fun. "I immediately called my friends and said, 'This movie's awful, you need to watch it.'" So when the Piedmont wanted to start screening something at midnight, she lobbied for *The Room*. **Mark Valen**, a film buyer for the Piedmont's parent company, **Landmark Theatres**, said Landmark had been screening *The Room* in many of its theaters, and though it hasn't worked everywhere, he and the Piedmont's managers are confident it'll mesh well with the East Bay's sense of humor. The midnight-screening experience is also participatory in the same delightfully ritualistic and inside-jokey way that longtime East Bay favorite *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* is. According to Valen, in LA and Minneapolis, audiences come dressed in Wiseau's signature sunglasses and white shirt, yell certain lines on cue, and throw plastic cutlery at the screen and toss footballs in nods to two of the film's many inexplicable plot points. "I was just amazed at how responsive the audience was," Valen said. "It's really amazing." *The Room* screens at the Piedmont Theater on Saturday, October 16, as well as November 20 and December 18. Midnight. $8. LandmarkTheatres.com.

— *Ellen Cushing*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/p/theroom

ATTRACTIONS

Banned Bookmobile Display With a display of rare books that have been banned for various reasons throughout history, including *The Odyssey*, *Harry Potter* and *Big Sammy's Stone* and *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*. Through Oct. 31. Free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Moore's Vampire Patch With pumpkins for sale, as well as a hay maze, a Bounce house, a petting zoo and more. Through Oct. 31. Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-3200.

Once Upon A Time, Happily Ever After... Three-part public art project by Scott Tiller. With a self-guided audio walking tour August 7 through November 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., a ride of special Lake Merritt sea-boats Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and an installation coming later in the year. Through Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Pado/LakeMerritt.asp.

Paint @ the Garden Explore art among the McConaghy House, and then try watercolor painting outside. Thu., Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $3-$5, free for Hayward Area Historical Society members. McConaghy House, 18701 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward. HaywardArea History.org.

Vampire Weddings @ Playland-Not-at-the-Beach With a vampire-themed scavenger hunt, in addition to Playland's Vampire offerings. Sat., Oct. 16; Sun., Oct. 17. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Fair Trade Judaica Fair With a selection of Jewish-themed fair-trade clothing, house decorations, jewelry, menorahs, and more. Sun., Oct. 17, 2-5 p.m. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

Altar to Motion Motorcycle and Hot Rod Rally With bikes, live bands, a raffle and silent auction, a barbecue, and more, a benefit for the Lauren Carrier Foundation. Sat., Oct. 16, 12-1 p.m. $25 donation. The Boys Club at the Concord Airport, 200 Sally Ride Dr., Concord.

Montclair Village Family Fair Festival With food and drinking vendors, live music, a health and wellness "village," and more. Sat., Oct. 16, 12-5 p.m. Free. Montclair Park, 6300 Moraga Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

OktoberFest 2010 With live music, a beer garden featuring local entertainment, food vendors, and more. Sat., Oct. 16, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord. 925-671-3464.

Old Oakland Beer Festival With more than twenty taps, live music, kids' activities, and more. Sat., Oct. 16, 12-7 p.m. Old Oakland, 9th St., Oakland.

Spice of Life Festival With food and wine vendors, artist booths, kids' activities, and more. Sun., Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Gourmet Ghetto, Shattuck Ave. (between Rose and Delaware Sts.), Berkeley. www.northshattuck.org/.

GLBT

Dress-Up Wednesdays A social gathering where transgender girls, cross-dressers, and first-timers are welcome. Enjoy parking and a large selection of clothing for the woman in you. Hook up, make friends, take photos, and get makeup tips. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. $15-$20. Vampire Restaurant, JustMeAndHer.com, I Love It, 43070 Warm Springs Blvd., #7, Fremont. 510-656-4739. ILoveItCat.com.

East Bay Bi-Friendly Meeting Look for the "Bi-Friendly" sign. Info: BiFriendly.org. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Free. Au Coquelet Cafe, 2000 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-0433.

East Bay FrontRunners Join the LGBT group for runners (any pace) and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly locations. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. Free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-881-6740. O.Berkeley.

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ARTIST SPEAK! is a public speakers forum featuring a panel of representatives from the arts community discussing the key issues affecting the arts in Oakland. Moderated by long-time journalist Brenda Payton Jones and hosted by the Oakland Museum of California, the audience will hear a range of perspectives from respected artists and community leaders on topics including economic development, community development, artists' roles in politics, and the Mayoral candidates in the November election.

A Voters Forum
The State of the Arts in Oakland
Thursday October 14th, 2010
Oakland Museum of California
James Moore Theater
5:30 - 8:00pm

This is a FREE event
More information at www.ArtistSpeak.org

Register for the Art Census at SupportOaklandArtists.org

PICKS

Hideo

Considering all the epic battles and larger-than-life figures they contain, it's only natural that the musical scores of video games and anime films would lend themselves to staged opera. *Hideo*, playing one night only on Saturday, Oct. 16, at **Zellerbach Hall** (UC Berkeley campus) places a classic story about a hero's journey — more specifically a young man on what the opera calls an "epic quest for justice" — over a score culled from TV shows and video games like *Final Fantasy* and *Mega Man*. As a bonus, *Hideo* will be treated to a pre-show performance of songs from the classic Sega game *Sonic the Hedgehog*, performed by local keyboardist **Kevin Wong**. 8 p.m., $40-$64. HideoConcert.com — *Ellen Cushing*

Spice of Life Festival

Spice of Life Festival

If the runaway success of Oakland's Eat Real Festival and the perennial popularity of North Berkeley's Chocolate and Chalk Art Festival are any indication, the East Bay's obsession with food [illegible] is far from waning. This weekend's **Spice of Life Festival**, now entering its eighth year, is one of the area's oldest and most venerable food fetes. It's also centered in what might as well be ground zero for local foodies, Berkeley's **Gourmet Ghetto** (Shattuck Ave. between Virginia and Rose sts.). This year's event features booths from local restaurants, wineries, artists, and microbrewers; cooking demos; live music; various kids' activities; and, for the first time, street-food vendors. Sunday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free. NorthShattuckAssociation.org — *E.C.*

Golden State Warriors

The NBA season hasn't yet started, but [illegible] a [illegible] peek at what the season ahead holds for the Warriors and their new look. On Monday, Oct. 18, the team's **last Oakland exhibition game** tips off at the **Oracle Arena** (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland) with a 7:30 p.m. start against the **Portland Trailblazers**. The Warriors have a new coach to go with their new uniforms, and almost half a roster of new players as well. Considering the historical futility of the Oakland squad, a fresh start sounds pretty good. It's one more week of pre-season ball before the Golden Staters open the 2010-11 season in earnest. Until then, we can dream. $15-$350. NBA.com/Warriors — *Kibby Kleiman*

Ca City/Market/

Theater 39: Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their twenties. Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. $5-$10 suggested donation. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

HIV+ Gay Men's Berkeley Group A supportive environment for gay men facing a diagnosis of HIV. Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m. Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County, 3024 Willow Pass Rd., Concord. 925-692-0090. RainbowCC.org.

HIV Theater Therapy Group Advance sign-up required. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., $10-$45 sliding scale. 510-548-8283 ext. 240. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

[illegible] Group Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. $5-$10 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

[illegible] Weight Loss Challenge With personal coaching, a weekly raffle, a free body analysis, cash prizes for the top losers, and a weekly nutrition class focusing on topics like hydration, portion control, exercise and more. Call 510-847-2006 to register. Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22. $39. Lake Merritt United Methodist Church (First Ave. entrance), 1255 First Ave., Oakland.

LGBTQ Youth Group Drop-in group for LGBTQ youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/music. Thursdays: hot issues/guest speakers. Fridays: Game nights/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m.; Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.; Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Women and Formerly Women Gay/Bi Over 35 Berkeley Group Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. [illegible]@pacificcenter.org. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Transgender Support Group Support group for transgender men and women seeking peer support. Fridays, 6-8:30 p.m., $5-$10 suggested donation. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Trip the Light Fantastic Beginners are welcome to learn [illegible]. East and West Coast swing, salsa, waltzes, nightclub two-step, [illegible] Lindy and the merengue. First and Third Friday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m., $10-$20 sliding scale. Oakland [illegible] 510-268-1343. TripTheLightFantastic.org. Lake Merritt Dance Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-504-2878. LakeMerrittDanceCenter.org.

KIDS

Art Therapy for Children with Disabilities Ages 8-10 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an [illegible] environment in a group setting. Maximum five children per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, [illegible], Fairyland children's theater shows, the animal of the day and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m., $8. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (in Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-[illegible] [illegible].org.

Cool My Goal [illegible] workshop for kids grades 7-12. [illegible] Singing, short [illegible]. Fridays, 4:15-6 p.m. $125/[illegible] sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Coyote Tales Kristina [illegible] leads a monthly class introducing kids 3-5 to the natural world in [illegible]. Advance reservation required; space is limited. Third Tuesday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. & 2:30-4 p.m. Donation $6, [illegible] $3. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

[illegible] Featuring Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Goofy and more. Wed., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.; Thu., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Oct. 15, 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 16, 11 a.m., 3 & 7 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 17, 1 & 5 p.m. $22-$90. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Disney.com.

East 14th Teen Anime Club Opportunity for teens to watch anime films and discuss graphic novels. Second Wednesday of every month, 3-5 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

Peacemakers The Girls Inc. program is for girls who want to earn [illegible] service hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants are [illegible] leadership and facilitation skills, and then put these skills into action by working with the younger girls in the [illegible] develop their own [illegible] sign language, singing French songs, [illegible] and team games. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Girls Inc. Meyers Center, Alameda. 510-521-1763. GirlsIncIslandCity.org.

Kerry's Kids: Oakland [illegible] A [illegible] health [illegible] where families provide immunizations, health education, check-ups, blood pressure checks, and Head Start [illegible] children. [illegible] physicians [illegible]. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. Third Tuesday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m., 510-444-4306. Harrison House, 711 Oakland St., Berkeley. 510-525-0853.

[illegible] Self-Defense for Girls Certified instructor [illegible] leads these classes just for girls ages 11-16 combining elements of karate, yoga, dance and kung fu and a noncompetitive [illegible] workout. Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m. $15 drop-in class; $109 for unlimited classes/month. 510-842-2400. Albany [illegible] for Kids, 1219 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9763. [illegible].com.

Tribal Dance for Kids Beginning classes in Indian classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., $10. Kala Mandir College [illegible], 1534 Gateway St., Berkeley. 510-273-2463. [illegible].org.

[illegible] A fundraiser for [illegible] Connections, with live music [illegible]. Sun., Oct. 17, 2-6 p.m. [illegible], 7501 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito. 510-525-6159.

Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District The park service offers health and [illegible] classes in everything from kickboxing to fencing, a full schedule of [illegible], including water polo, golf, tennis, dance classes and activities for kids of all ages, and more. Daily. PleasantHillRec.com.

Teen Advisory Board: Oakland [illegible] Thursday of every month, 4:15-5:15 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Wildlife Theater On Saturdays, hear a story and [illegible]. On Sundays, meet more [illegible]. Saturdays, 11:45 p.m.; Sundays, 1:45 p.m. Free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Afternoon Tea With light refreshments and a chance to meet [illegible] play [illegible]. Tuesdays, 3 p.m. Donation suggested. [illegible] Club, 2296 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3237. [illegible]Club.org.

Blockbuster Quiz Trivia game for cash and prizes. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Free. Beckett's, 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. [illegible].com.

Brainiac Trivia Quiz Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. Free. Maggie McGarry's, 1353 Grant Ave., San Francisco. 415-399-9020. MaggieMcgarrys.com.

Dinner for Early Intervention [illegible] 30th Anniversary [illegible] With a dinner [illegible] and live auction, and special guests including assemblywoman Nancy Skinner and [illegible] Barry [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 16, 6:15 p.m., $200. Jack London Square Pavilion, 98 Broadway Ave., Oakland.

Discussion Salon Everyone is invited to [illegible] on a [illegible] range of topics, including [illegible], education, [illegible], and whatever else [illegible]. Info: 510-868-3556. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m., [illegible] Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-548-9037. JCCEB.org.

Domingo de Rumba Community jam session for Afro-Cuban singers, and dancers who play rumba. First and Third Sunday of every month, 3:30-6 p.m., [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Berkeley Liberty [illegible] [illegible] discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m.; First Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

[illegible] Night Sing along [illegible] favorite movie; the audience will [illegible] what's shown. Sundays, 8 p.m. Free. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

[illegible] Trivia Night [illegible] by Justin & [illegible]. Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

The Living Philosophers Group A congenial discussion group. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible], North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Oakland [illegible] State Oakland [illegible] 7-9:30 p.m. Free. [illegible] Community Church, 5300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-3401. [illegible].org.

Philosophical [illegible] A monthly discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, 12-2 p.m. [illegible] 120 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill. 925-888-4333.

Pub Quiz [illegible] for prizes, [illegible] by Angela and Christa. Third Saturday of every month, 7:30-10 p.m. Free. [illegible] Lounge, 2000 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8000. [illegible].com.

Scrabble Club The club holds two to three times a month and holds a monthly tournament (see TBA). Visit [illegible] $25 for six games. Third and First Saturday to every month, [illegible]-4 p.m., $1. It's Your Move Games and Hobbies, 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-547-4FUN (4386). ItsYourMoveGames.com.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Aikido Oakland For info, visit [illegible]. Saturdays, 6:30 a.m.; Mondays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $40/mo for 2 [illegible] per week; $100/mo for [illegible]. [illegible] Center, 5301 Crescent Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-8000.

30th Tours of Oakland [illegible] tours of Oakland [illegible]. Explore the Port of Oakland, West Oakland, Brooklyn [illegible], Lake Merritt, [illegible] 10th Street entrance to 10 a.m. Reservations preferred: [illegible]. Third Sunday of every month, 10 a.m. Free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2290. MuseumCA.org.

Berkeley Table Tennis Club Open to everyone. Open play, [illegible]. Sundays 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Open play and training Mondays 7 p.m.-10 p.m.; Open play and training Thursdays 2:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Tournament 6:25 p.m.-12:25 p.m. Thursdays; Mondays, [illegible]; Thursdays; Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-10:15 p.m. $3-$7. [illegible] Academy Gymnasium, 798 Grayson Rd., Pleasant Hill.

[illegible] Oakland [illegible]. Call 510-204-9536 for more information. Saturdays, 12-2:30 p.m. [illegible] Park, 6300 Moraga Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks.

[illegible] Weekly [illegible] Ride [illegible] 15.75-mile ride up Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley Hills. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

Self-Defense Course Sundays, 1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. $10-$20. [illegible], 163 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-452-3041. [illegible].org/.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Cal Men's Rugby vs. San Diego State Fri., Oct. 15, 4 p.m. Free. Edwards Stadium, Bancroft Way at Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-7327. CalBears.com/Facilities/Edwards-Stadium.html.

Cal Men's [illegible] vs. UCLA Sat., Oct. 17, 2:37 p.m. Free. Edwards Stadium, Bancroft Way at Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-7327. CalBears.com/Facilities/Edwards-Stadium.html.

Cal Women's Soccer vs. Washington Fri., Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m. Free; Sun., Oct. 17, noon. Free. Edwards Stadium, Bancroft Way at Fulton Street, Berkeley. 510-643-7327. CalBears.com/Facilities/Edwards-Stadium.html.

Cal Women's Volleyball vs. Washington State Fri., Oct. 15, 7 p.m., $5-$10; Sat., Oct. 16, 7 p.m., $5-$10. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-0580. CalBears.com/Facilities/Haas-Pavilion.html.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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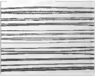


Detail of Caroline Seckinger's "Stitch 1"

Craftswomanship

Concept + Craft interweaves tradition and innovation

While computers will certainly help shape the future of art, today's technology-based art sometimes seems so enamored of its cool toys and arcane methodologies that aesthetic effect seems almost an afterthought. ***Concept + Craft***, curated by **Danielle Fox** and **Alice Lehrer** of **Slate Art and Design**, takes a resolutely aesthetic, corporeal look at the "women's work" craft tradition — including sewing, weaving, spinning, stitching, ironing, and basketry — as it has evolved, informed by Minimalism, Land Art, Pattern and Decoration Painting, Conceptualism, and, of course, Feminism.

Mung Lar Lam, **Jessica Martin**, **Caroline Seckinger**, **Patricia Thomas**, **Anna Von Mertens**, and **Alicia Woods** explore a number of topical issues with elegance and lucid lightness — and seriously great craftspersonship. Lam's military uniforms and blankets ("Multi Terrain") and creased, pleated swatches of camo-colored cloth ("Ironing") are as neat as any Sergeant Major could wish, but art vets would see them as drawing from performance, process art, and geometric abstraction. Martin's wall-hung wire sculpture, "Nest," suggests an X-ray view of an animal's burrow enclosing translucent oblong eggs, or perhaps an abstracted brain hatching thought bubbles. Seckinger's "The Wedding Bowl," large as a hot tub, with an interior of narrow bridal shoots and an exterior of white rabbit pelts, suggests both bowl and boat (i.e., circular coracle); with neither bow nor stern, it is a fitting matrimonial vessel. Her deconstructed wedding dresses ("Bones") all skeletonic seams and her woven piece, "Penelope," alluding to clever Ulysses' crafty wife undoing each day's weaving, deal with the marital arts. The latter repurposes cloth from Christo and Jeanne-Claude's "Running Fence," as does "Sleeping Beauty," with its gossamer coils under bell jars.

Thomas takes fairy tales into the woods of the subconscious with "Death Bride," a tulle bridal veil/shroud festooned with rose thorns, and "Kingdom Done," a treelike construction comprised of chandeliers coated in coal-black yarn and metal crowns wrapped in gold-thread spider web. Von Mertens' quilt, "A Sunrise You Might See ...," depicts the sky at dusk, with star patterns from 2007 and 2082 superimposed. Woods collapses time in another fashion, repurposing obsolete cassette/reel-to-reel tape and fiber-optic cable for baskets based on archaic Cycladic and Phoenician prototypes, some of the electromagnetically charged ones undoubtedly retaining data from the last millennium. Fox's notes on the artworks, incidentally, are a model of clarity and concision. Film screening and discussion on Saturday, Oct. 16, at 1 p.m. *Concept + Craft* runs through October 23 at **Pro Arts Gallery** (150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland). 510-763-4361 or ProArtsGallery.org

— DeWitt Cheng

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/[illegible]/concepttcrafts

ART GALLERIES

21 Grand: The Orbit Goes Soon group exhibition with work by Eric Saroian, Jackson Lenochan, Kathryn Williamson, and others. Through Oct. 15. [illegible] 20th St., Oakland. 510-444-7263. 21Grand.org.

57th Street Gallery: Abstract, Abstract, Abstract [illegible] Through Oct. 29. Free. 5711 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-0074, 57thStreetGallery.com.

6115 Shellmound St., 24th Street: Emeryville Art Tomcat With work from local artists. Through Oct. 24. 6115 Shellmound St., Emeryville.

Arrowl Cafe: [illegible] Aerial photography by [illegible] Layesky. Through Nov. 8. Free. 4334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-3385. ArrowlCafe.com.

Ames Gallery: Twice Upon A Time: Berkeley Collects, Border as Art. Including quilts, recycled and reused art, and more. Through Oct. 31. 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4949. AmesGallery.com.

Autobody Fine Art: Mark: Subject/Object/Collaborator Photography by Robert Fischer. Through Dec. 5. 1517 Park Street, Alameda.

Bedford Gallery: The [illegible] New Deal Art 1935-1943 An exhibit celebrating the 75th anniversary of Roosevelt's Depression-era Works Progress Administration. Through Dec. 19. $5. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center: Alliance Emerge: Collaborative, place-based works by local artists. Through Oct. 28. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Border Mill Oakland [illegible] With music, appetizers, and displays by Steven Canon Mill [illegible] and [illegible]. Overnight only. Fri., Oct. 15, 6-8 p.m. Free. 1391 Calcot Place, Oakland.

Hotel the California: Visible Landmarks of Oakland California Watercolors by Nevid Weyklet. Through Jan. 1, 2011. Free. 1213 Preservation Park Way, Oakland.

Castro Valley Library: The Painting & the Story Acrylic paintings by Larry Van Ben[illegible]. Through Dec. 22. 20055 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley. 510-670-6280.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary: Topographic Work by Brian Conway. Through Nov. 16. 480 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

The Compound Gallery: Wanderlust for Wonders' Sake Solo show with work by Kerri Lee Johnson. With a Sunday tea and artist's talk Oct. 24, 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Through Oct. 24. 1167 65th Street, Oakland.

Creative Growth Art Center: [illegible] Featuring work by [illegible] Creative Growth artists. Through Nov. 12. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

Ohlone Border Center: Mastery the Brothers Work by Chris [illegible]. Through Jan. 7, 2011. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Expressions Gallery: [illegible] of the Cross With art in many media by several artists. Through Oct. 22. Free. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Farley's East: Joan Elliott and New Treatments New work. Through Oct. 30. 33 Grand Ave., Oakland. www.farleyscoffee.com.

Heartfelt Public Outside Photography by Peter Hong. Through Oct. 31. 1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

[illegible] Brave [illegible] of Dreams Featuring photography by Marcus Lorenzo Pore and Ethiopian artifacts complementary from the African Outlet. Through Oct. 30. Free. 5891 Carol Pl., Oakland. 510-535-4700. ThePixelCenter.com.

Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College: Gifted: The Fine Art of Craft Featuring work by glassmakers, jewelry makers, quilters, and more. Through Dec. 12. $4. 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379. StMarys-CA.edu/arts/hearst-art-gallery

JohanssonProjects: Drawn Work by Misaki Voska. Through Nov. 8. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery: Absence Theatrum Solo show by Kathy deRosas. Through Oct. 23. Free. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-0499. JFKU.edu/gallery.

K Gallery: Exquisite Corpse Art Exhibition A group show. Through Nov. 8. 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-645-5080. Kitchens.org.

Kala Gallery and Art Outdoors: [illegible] New Work from Kala Works on paper by Kala-affiliated artists including Beth Fein, Jayne Eriel Holmes, Carol Ladewig, and Nelson Lorenzo. Through Nov. 27. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

Krowswork: The Constructed Landscape With work by Mark Baugh-Sasaki. Through Oct. 16. 480 23rd St., Oakland.

Laney College Library: Tolerance Outside the Lines: Brave Cartoonists as Social Check Animation With work by Cory Godbey, Judy Crist, and many more. Through Oct. 23. 900 Fallon Street, Oakland.

The Layover: Abstract [illegible] Photography and collage by Daniel Kaufman. Through Oct. 31. 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

Livermore Library: [illegible] Abstract, landscape and portrait photography by local artists. Through Oct. 24. Free. 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

San Leandro: Through Art Gallery: Somewhere and Absence Paintings by Mike Bergen and Cara Tomlinson. Through Nov. 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. 700 East Lelford Rd., Pittsburg. 925-439-7188 x521.

Lucky Jo Jo Place II Art Gallery: [illegible] Jackson's Original Outsider Art Exhibition of original outsider art. Through Dec. 1. 713-E Santa Clara St., Alameda. 510-206-5793. [illegible].com.

Mercury 20 Gallery: Radioboo King: Images & Dreams Paintings and outdoor objects by the local artist. Through Oct. 28. **Surface II: Oakland** Mixed-media work by Ann Maginn, Margaret Claveguy, Mary V. Marsh, and Johanne Sterling. Through Oct. 29. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-2385. Mercury20.com.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices: Reclaiming Design Mixed-media and recycled-object art by participants in the Art of Lahu Stones program at Stepping Stones Growth Center. Through Nov. 12. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-7773.

NIAD Art Center: NIAD Retrospective: 25 Years A retrospective of work from various artists over the course of NIAD's 25-year history. Through Nov. 5. Free. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch: Sid & Stod and Friends Mixed-media work by Stod as well as The [illegible] and Border Abstract, and Dani Smythe. Through Oct. 28. 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch: Power Outside Party Commemorative Border Display With a display of archival photography depicting Black Panther Party members and programs. Through Oct. 29. Free. 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

Oakland Public Library, Temescal: Oakland X Work by Jonathan Kwak. Through Oct. 30. 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049. OaklandLibrary.org.

Pictopia Gallery: Pictopia Gallery's [illegible] Featuring photography by twelve artists, including Jerry Pagliari, Douglas Gayeton, and Patrice O'Neil. Through Nov. 24. Free. 1380 56th St., Emeryville.

Pictorial Gallery: Alone Black-and-white and color photography by Art Shulevitch. Through Nov. 20. 2271 4th St., Berkeley.

Abstract Piano Company: Reflections & Paintings, drawings, and mixed forms of local jazz and blues musicians, by James Gayles. Through Nov. 20. 1728 San Pablo Street, Oakland.

Pro Arts Gallery: Concept + Kraft Featuring work by six conceptual Abstract artists. Through Oct. 23. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

Richmond Art Center: Glass Mastery Ceramic art by Obata Kuroko, Paul Soldner, Frank Jackson, and others. Through Nov. 13. Free. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Royal Flanders Gallery Library: Forms Work by Lydia Greer. With storytelling and a short film. Oct. 16, 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Through Oct. 31. 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Slate Contemporary Art and Design Gallery: Victor Cohen: New Paintings Through Oct. 16. Free. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Studio Quercus: Outside Victorian Dollhouses Work in various media along macabre Victorian themes. With a masquerade reception Oct. 30, 8 p.m.-11 p.m. Through Oct. 30. 385 26th St., Oakland.

Swarm Oakland + Gallery: [illegible] With work by Lynn Kable. Through Oct. 24. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

Traywick Gallery: Border Gems: Forbidden City Abstract expressions. Through Dec. 18. **Portia Ross: Red, Yellow, Blue** Nature-inspired paintings and drawings. Through Dec. 18. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. Traywick.com.

Vessel Gallery: Augmented Border Featuring sculpture, painting, and installation by Morgan E. Wade and painting by Michelle Zhu. Through Oct. 30. 471 25th St., Oakland.

MUSEUMS

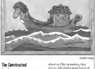
Berkeley Art Museum: Outside of the Four Seasons: Ten Centuries of Art from the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture With over 100 works of Japanese art. Through Dec. 12. Free-$10. **Through Art:** artistic exploration of corporate branding, with work by Jeff Coover. Through Nov. 30, 2011. **Theatrum Orbis/Theatrum / MATRIX 234** A collection of photographs by Marjorie Dijkman. Through Nov. 28. **Marjolijn Dijkman: Theatrum Orbis Terrarum** Exhibition of photography by the Dutch artist. Through Nov. 28. $7-$10. **Pham Flanders: Kaleidoscope** Commissioned work between sculpture and furniture carved in Japanese designs. Through Nov. 30, 2011. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. Bampfa.berkeley.edu.

Oakland Museum of California: Black Plus: The Marvelous Museum A site-specific exhibit conceived of and done by the Museum's art and history collections. Through Jan. 9, 2011. Free-$12. **Día: Days of the Dead** With installations by artists as well as students and community. Theatrum[illegible] in honor of Día de los Muertos. With a community celebration Oct. 23, noon-4:30 p.m. and artist talks Oct. 8, 1 p.m.; Oct. 17, 2 p.m.; Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m.; Nov. 12, 7 p.m.; and Nov. 14, 2 p.m. Through Dec. 5. **Pixar: 25 Years of Animation** With over 500 works by the artists of Emeryville's Pixar Studios. Through Jan. 9, 2011. $8-$12. Free for children and members. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

PICKS

Wanderlust for Wonders Sake

The **Branch Gallery**'s **Kerri Lee Johnson** is showing twenty or so paintings on carved wooden panels and an equal number of small, wall-mounted, mixed-media sculptures, all exuding an air of storybook fantasy. The sculptures ("Trinity") feature verdant islands that rise precipitously like tree stumps from tranquil waters; miniature houses, barns, and churches serve as silent characters. The paintings — done on wood panels, with scored/inked, scrimshaw-style drawing, and ornate wooden frames — have a folkloric look. Their strange settings and characters include a Russian-style house distorted to attract bees ("The Keepers"); farms and windmills perched atop island plateaus ("All That Is Needed," "Elevated," "Group Activity"); bird-headed boats outfitted with air-driven propellers or whirligigs ("Ken Neo to Have Company," "Back to Home"); and a horse-headed wooden ship with a cozy, ornate cabin ("Sailing Away"). ***Wanderlust*** runs through October 24 at **The Compound Gallery** (1167 65th St., Oakland). 510-817-4642 or TheCompoundGallery.com — *DeWitt Cheng*



DeWitt Cheng

The Constructed Landscape

Mark Baugh-Sasaki invests gates here in perception and our impact on the environment in ***The Constructed Landscape*** (or construed?). The title may suggest *Manufactured Landscapes*, the documentary on Edward Burtynsky whose epic industrial ecology photos share commonalities with Baugh-Sasaki's "Distorted System" prints. It's the sculptures and installations that make a larger impression here, however. "The Constructed Landscape" roughs up **Krowswork Gallery**'s normally orderly church pews, here, flung about as if by tornadoes; they rest at odd angles amid heaps of wooden planks and half-buried video monitors that cast their window-like blue-white glow skyward. In "Linear Progression" a topographic plaster grid becomes a miniature world onto which sliding landscapes vid-netaped from trains and planes are projected. Finally, two steel sculptures frame photographic slices of landscape: they're mounted like huge microscope slides ("Cypress") or splayed like playing cards ("Steel River"). *Constructed Landscapes* runs through October 16 at Krowswork Gallery (480 23rd St., Oakland). 510-214-7035 or Krowswork.com — *D.L.*

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Crossfire Cabaret: Berkeley Oakland Gallimore Ant Berkeley [illegible], Pete Morse, and Michelle Armour. Fri., Oct. 15, 7:30 & 11 p.m. $8-$10. Mr. Gutierrez Restaurant and Tequila Bar, 1457 Fruitvale Ave. Oakland.

Kathy Griffin Sun., Oct. 17, 7 p.m., $45, $55.50, $78.50. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

"Mortified" Berkeley Showcase w/ The Franco [illegible] Sat., Oct. 16, 5 p.m., $15, $20. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159. ShattuckDownLow.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Mama LOVE: Seeds of Wonder Based on children's lullabies and lyric [illegible], Oakland; choreographed and written by [illegible]. Starting Oct. 15, Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 24, 3 p.m. Continues through Oct. 24. $12-$15. Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, 2704 Alcatraz Ave., Berkeley. 510-654-5921. www.shawl-anderson.org.

LIVE VARIETY

TheBhopaedia Female artist Loveheat featuring music, art, theater, and spoken word. Third Friday of every month, 8 p.m., $5-$10. Divinity Vision Music & Arts, 3020 Maple Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

The Oakland Tumbleed: Bubble Show Interactive, family-friendly show from The Amazing Bubble Man. Sundays, 11 a.m. Continues through Nov. 28. $8-$11. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-6048. TheMarsh.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Anything Goes A production of the comedy written by Cole Porter and performed by young Berkeley from the Youth Musical Theater Company. Fri., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 24, 2 p.m.; Fri., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. $17-$22. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

Fraulein Anne A Feminist drama about the discovery and publication of Anne Frank's famous diary. Directed by [illegible] and starring Mandy Fitzpatrick. Through Oct. 31. $29-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

East 14th: True Tales of a Reluctant Player One-man show by Oakland native Don Reed. Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m.; Fri., Oct. 29, 5 p.m. Continues through Nov. 21. $20-$35 sliding scale, Reserved seating $50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4049. TheMarsh.org.

Mary Stuart A Notable [illegible] in Elizabethan England. Directed by Mark [illegible] and adapted from Friedrich Schiller's Maria Stuart. Through Nov. 7. $10-$30. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Polaroid Stories Performance of [illegible]'s play [illegible] from Laney to Sanford's Fringe Festival. Starting Oct. 14, Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30. $5-$100 sliding scale. Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3542.

Travesties A comedy written by Tom Stoppard and presented by UC Berkeley's [illegible] productions. Buy tickets at the door or at tickets.berkeley.edu. Starting Oct. 15, Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 17, 7 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 24, 2 p.m. Continues through Oct. 23, $8-$10. Choral Rehearsal Hall, 27 Cesar Chavez Student Center, Berkeley. 510-643-1047.

Loveland [illegible] play. Fridays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through Nov. 13. $20-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-6048. TheMarsh.org.

Our Town A production of Thornton Wilder's classic play directed by Christopher Herold. See http://TDPS.Berkeley.edu for more information. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Oct. 17. $10-$15. Zellerbach Playhouse, 2427 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9925. CalPerfs.Berkeley.edu.

Penelope's Odyssey A new play based on The Odyssey written by Gary Graves and directed by John Patrick Moore. Starting Oct. 17, Sundays, 5 p.m.; Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 21. $15-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Rosie Revisited [illegible] Bay Area WWII history, written by Kathryn McCarty and Mitchell Corrigan, directed by McCarty. Saturdays, Sundays, 3 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 24. $25-$38, and for uniformed soldiers and WWII Rosies. Red Oak Victory Ship, 1337 Canal Blvd., Richmond. 510-237-2933.

Staged Reading: [illegible] Staged reading of the play written by Shakespeare contemporary [illegible], [illegible] Matthew Sweeney, and performed by the Subterranean Shakespeare company. Mon., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m., $8. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. [illegible]

PICKS

Jerry Springer: The Opera

It was only a matter of time before someone saw the operatic potential in *The Jerry Springer Show*, that perennially entertaining piece of tabloid television whose genius formula — lowbrow guests, dishy revelations, violence — has endured for 19 seasons. British writers **Richard Thomas** and **Stewart Lee** got it right in their zany musical homage to American trash culture. It is, indeed, an opera, complete with coloratura vocal parts, layer-cake harmonies, and set pieces that require fantastical characters (e.g., God) to stand high above the stage. Director **M. Graham Smith** takes **Ray of Light Theatre**'s current production, starring Patrick Michael Dukeman as a bossy, gawky, small, manipulative **Jerry Springer**. The joke strikes hard in the first scene, as guests arrive with votive candles, singing incantations about transvestite whores and chicks with dicks. It wilts a bit toward the middle, but gets reinvigorated in acts two and three (which take place in purgatory and hell, respectively). The music is rather stunning, though the orchestra remains hidden throughout — you can barely glimpse their heads over the scrim of Maya Linke's set design. Through October 16 at **Victoria Theatre** (2961 16th St., San Francisco). 415-[illegible] JerrySF.com — *Rachel Swan*

Much Ado About Nothing

The burst of lush music and yellows in **Daniel Ostling**'s set seems appropriate both for the season and for the theme of **Cal Shakes**' latest offering, *Much Ado About Nothing*. It's a sweet, traditional production that, like all Shakespearean comedies, has a smattering of dark undertones — in this case, betrayal, jealousy, battles of the sexes, and apprehension about finding a soulmate. Director **Jonathan Moscone** took an interesting tack by casting veteran actors **Andrew Murray** and **Domenique Lozano** as the testy couple Beatrice and Benedick. Handsome and middle-aged, they make a fine counterpoint to the much younger Hero and Claudio, played by **Emily Kitchens** and **Nick Childress**, respectively. Comic genius **Danny Scheie** doubles as villain Don John and bumbling constable Dogberry. He gainfully exploits every [illegible] in the script. Through October 17 at **Bruns Amphitheater** (100 California Shakespeare Way, Orinda). $34-$70. 510-548-9666 or CalShakes.org — *R.S.*

Alonzo King's LINES Ballet

Sergei Diaghilev's **Ballets Russes** launched dance into the 20th century with pieces like the 1911 *Schéhérazade*. **Alonzo King's LINES Ballet**, one of San Francisco's foremost contemporary-dance companies, has reinvented that influential dance for the new millennium. Commissioned by the Monaco Dance Forum in honor of the Ballets Russes centennial, and premiered in Monte Carlo last December, the updated *Schéhérazade* takes *The 1,001 Nights* as a jumping-off point (leaping-off, really) for King's sensuous choreography and powerful dancers, who are draped in costumes by Colleen Quen. Tabla virtuoso **Zakir Hussain** revisits the original Rimsky-Korsakov score on Persian and Western instruments, and plays live during each performance. Except for the opening gala on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m., the show includes a reprise of *Dust and Light*, which plays counterpoint to *Schéhérazade*'s dappled light, intimate movement, and music by Corelli and Poulenc. Wed.-Thu. 7:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 5 p.m., $25-$75. 415-978-2787 or LinesBallet.org — *Claudia Bauer*

Jerry Springer
The Opera

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THEATER REVIEW

SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

Mark Jackson retells a sordid historical drama on the Shotgun Players' stage

By Rachel Swan

Mary Stuart is a near perfect play [illegible]

Director **Mark Jackson** may not have a signature style per se, but there are definitely certain features that characterize each of his productions. He tends to favor great bookish texts, for one thing, like Goethe's *Faust*, which served as source material for Jackson's 2009 work, *Mephistopheles* — arguably the best local play of the year. He likes darkness and sordidness: stark soundscapes, and sets that aren't too crowded with detail. He likes the actor **Peter Ruocco**, who played a seductive devil in *Mephistopheles* and returns in Jackson's current production of *Mary Stuart*. Above all, he likes characters who are imprisoned, either by the state or by their own minds.

Such is the foundation for *Stuart*, a new **Shotgun Players** production adapted from the script by 18th-century philosopher **Friedrich von Schiller**. In essence, it's a rewrite of a rewrite: Schiller's idea was to recast the oft-maligned Queen of Scots as a martyr; Jackson's idea was to create a dueling-queen story with modern parallels, not only in terms of the petty jealousies that inform political policy, but also in terms of national security and the prison system. By dint of luck, or impeccable timing, the run of *Mary Stuart* coincides with the first civilian trial of a former **Guantanamo** detainee. The bright lights and security videos in **Nina Ball**'s set seem entirely apropos, as do the characters' vague references to enhanced interrogation. "We don't torture," insists the queen's chief advisor Lord Burleigh (Ruocco). During last Saturday's performance, the line drew snickers.

It helps to know a little bit about the history of Mary Stuart going in. To an outsider it can be extremely convoluted. The gist is that Mary, the 16th-century queen of Scotland (and erstwhile queen of France, per her first marriage), was defiled in Protestant England for steadfastly clinging to the Catholic faith. She also had a checkered past, having issued a few backroom deals (like her attempt to secretly consolidate the French and Scottish thrones against the will of her subjects) and married the man widely rumored to be her first husband's murderer. All of these details emerge as random kernels in the characters' dialogue. Given the weird mix of ambitions and side plots against Mary, it's occasionally hard to tell what's true and what's hearsay. Still, if you can keep track of who's a good guy, who's a prevaricator, and who has an evil plan, the rest will gradually unfold.

Jackson staged this *Mary Stuart* in a hyper-modern setting. Three video screens atop the stage show characters' movements as they stand in a hall behind the stage. The walls are brutal prison-white. For most of the play Mary (**Stephanie Gularte**) sits in a chair in the center of the stage, curled in a fetal position. Characters watch her movements from behind a dark window in the back of the room. The window also reflects Mary's silhouette, creating the illusion of two planes of action, even when she's the only one moving. The opening scene is built around long stretches of silence during which Mary's face is projected on the three video screens in close-up. Gularte has the perfect face for such invasive techniques: long and narrow, with high cheekbones and sharp, slanty eyebrows. A clock ticks petulantly in the background. The whole set is an extension of Mary's psychology.

The title character actually gets few lines of dialogue in this play, even though she's the subject of every single conversation. Elizabeth (the wonderful **Beth Wilmurt**) enjoys a rather tenuous sovereignty over England, knowing full well that the defamation of Mary Stuart will help burnish her own reputation. Jackson codes this Elizabeth as an androgynous character, in contrast to the doe-eyed feminine Mary. Wilmurt is made to look extra pale, with military cadet boots and a navy blue blazer. Colors of the English flag predominate in the other characters' costumes as well. Lord Burleigh, the Earl of Shrewsbury (**John Mercer**), and the Earl of Leicester (**Scott Coopwood**) all wear politician suits and ties. The warden Paulet (**Jesse Caldwell**) and his nephew Mortimer (**Ryan Tasker**) have laminated badges. Burleigh wears a flag pennant.

Show Details
Mary Stuart runs through November 7 at the Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $17-$26. ShotgunPlayers.org

Aside from being the most overtly nationalistic and anti-Catholic character in the play, Burleigh is also the most pure villain. Unlike Leicester, Mortimer, and Elizabeth, he doesn't waffle or bask in self-doubt. He's never vague about his intentions. And in Ruocco's portrayal he's a real chain-of-command kind of guy. Casting aside the set design and historical subtext, Ruocco is by far the best reason to see this play. If you liked him as the devil in *Mephistopheles*, you'll salivate over his depiction of a [illegible] sixth-century lord. Ruocco plays Burleigh with his whole body, sucking his cheeks in and licking his teeth when he's angry, or clasping his fingers to emphasize a point. Not once does he step outside the role, or even make a frivolous body movement.

Mary Stuart can seem like heavy lifting from an audience perspective, especially trying to follow all the character relationships. Once you get the historical nuts and bolts, it's a near-perfect play. ■

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/marystuart

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Chained to the Mast

Local noir novelist Jim Nisbet is a cult favorite in Europe

In **Jim Nisbet**'s novel *Windward Passage*, a smuggler dies a horrible death in the Caribbean Sea, chained to the mast of a sunken sailboat stocked with cocaine, a fortune, and a stash of the US president's DNA. In Nisbet's novel *Lethal Injection*, a convicted killer's execution in a Texas prison sends the dead man's best friend and ex-lover on a deadly, drug-soaked sojourn. His novel *A Moment of Doubt* wraps drugs, AIDS, gender, and hacking into one gritty bundle, set in the 1980s. All three books were published this year, along with a reissue of his debut novel *The Damned Don't Die* (original title, *The Gourmet*). Another Nisbet noir, *Dark Companion* — in which a well-meaning Indian American scientist becomes a fugitive from justice — will be released next spring.

Jim Nisbet

"It's something to have written a book in 1985 that's apparently still viable in 2010," said the San Francisco-based author, whose crime novels are cult favorites in Europe. "This cult phenomenon business is another way of saying that while all of my books have been continually in print in Europe for twenty-plus years ... my publishing record in Gringolandia has been spotty, to say the least."

Few American reporters have read Nisbet's work. Yet when French, German, and Italian reporters ask for interviews, "they've always read the book in question and, way more often than not, they've read them all." A typical European interviewer will also "show up with one or another of my titles, not necessarily the one in question, and ask me to sign it because 'for me, it's my favorite.' Are these Europeans blowing smoke? No," Nisbet concluded, because they're clearly well-acquainted with his oeuvre.

"Despite recent signs of fragmentation, European newspapers, magazines, and web sites support a critical apparatus whose job it is to think about 'culture,'" said Nisbet. "For these people, culture is a lively, ongoing, surprising, delightful, and dangerous enterprise that warrants scrutiny and not just product: another million-dollar production of *Swan Lake* or a $235-million movie about a guy with toilet paper stuck to his shoe — although, of course, culture is that, too."

Nisbet's novels, plays, and poetry volumes (including 1980's *Gnomics for Bishop Berkeley*) are part of a busy biography that includes retro-futuristic carpentry and ten years with Berkeley's **Blake Street Hawkeyes**, the performance group that spawned Whoopi Goldberg. At **Moe's Books** (2467 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Monday, October 18, Nisbet reads with four fellow crime novelists published under the **SwitchBlade** imprint of Berkeley-based **PM Press**: **Michael Harris** (*The Chieu Hoi Saloon*), **Benjamin Whitmer** (*Pike*), **Summer Brenner** (*I-5*), and **Owen Hill** (*The Incredible Double*).

To research his novels, Nisbet reads. Beyond that, "Is there anything more dangerous than the mind? ... Imagination counts for a lot, as does being fortunate enough to not be getting killed while leading as interesting a life as possible, while remembering at least some of it." 7:30 p.m., free. MoesBooks.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

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LECTURES

"Asia's Global Influence: How Is It Perceived? From Seoul & Macao?" Conference addressing contemporary Asian politics and relations with the U.S., with a keynote address, "Sources of Mutual Strategic Suspicion in U.S.-China Relations," delivered by David Lampton of Johns Hopkins University. RSVP by contacting Lavonne-Cary at 510-643-6497 or CCary@berkeley.edu. Thu., Oct. 14, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., free. International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-[illegible].

Bobbie Magid: "[illegible] in Poland: Uncovering the More Elusive Shades of the Medieval" Magid will discuss her experiences uncovering her family's history in Poland and share tips for those looking to take on similar projects. Sun., Oct. 17, 12:30-3 p.m. Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland.

David Ewing Duncan, "The Experimental Man: Cutting-Edge Scientific Research and Implications for Personalized Research." Thu., Oct. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Stanley Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

From the Bay Area to Port-au-Prince: Creating Food Sovereignty in Haiti With a keynote speech from Haitian farmer Pierre Labossiere, followed by live music and a discussion with local food activists. Thu., Oct. 14, 7 p.m., $10-$20 sliding scale. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818, HumanistHall.net.

Jeff Sharlet, "Uncovering the Secret Washington Family: Fundamentalism in American Politics" Wed., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., $7-$22. Lafayette Library, 952 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. 925-283-3872, LafayetteFriends.net.

Nicholas Money: "Triffids, Stinkhorns, and the Medicinal Mushroom Fraud" Discussing the history of the medicinal mushroom phenomenon and signing his book, *The Triumph of the Fungi: A Rotten History*. Thu., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. The Bone Room, 1569 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-526-5252, BoneRoom.com.

Robert Scheer: "Who Wins: Wall Street or Main Street" Discussing the recent recession and presenting his new book, *The Great American Stickup: How Reagan Republicans and Clinton Democrats Enriched Wall Street While Mugging Main Street*. Thu., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m., $8-$15. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227, HillsideClub.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Adam D. [illegible] Reading and discussing his new book *Hidden Truth: Young Men Navigating Lives In and Out of Juvenile Prison*. Wed., Oct. 13, 5:30-7 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585, UniversityPressBooks.com.

[illegible] Discussing *Untold: A History of the Wives of Prophet Muhammad*. Tue., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. [illegible], Berkeley. 1700 Fourth St., Berkeley.

[illegible], Malaya [illegible] and [illegible] Presenting *[illegible] Legend Sundays* and *Angelica's Daughters* respectively. Sat., Oct. 16, 3 p.m. Eastwind Books of Berkeley, 2066 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2350, EWBB.com.

[illegible] of Chinese Literature Book Group First Monday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0452.

Claude Lalumière Presenting his story collection *Objects of Worship*. Sun., Oct. 17, 4-6 p.m. The Other Change of Hobbit, 3954 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-848-0413, OtherChangeofHobbit.com.

Dante Chinni Reading from his new book, *Our Patchwork Nation*. Wed., Oct. 13, 6 p.m. UC Berkeley North Gate Library, 105 North Gate Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-[illegible], journalism.berkeley.edu.

Gurcharan Das Discussing his new book, *The Difficulty of Being Good: On the Subtle Art of Dharma*, with UC Berkeley Sanskrit Professor Robert Goldman. Tue., Oct. 19, 5-7:30 p.m., free. Bancroft Hotel, 2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-549-1000, BancroftHotel.com.

Elisabeth Soep and Vivian Chávez Discussing their new book, *Drop That Knowledge*, which is about local nonprofit Youth Radio. Thu., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-7777, BooksInc.net.

Emma Campion Reading *The King's Mistress*: a novel. Wed., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. A

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2010–2011
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music dance theater

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Photo: New [illegible]

Jerusalem Quartet

Fri, Oct 15, 8 pm
First Congregational Church
Prices start at $48

Known for performances that are challenging, spontaneous, and utterly captivating, the Jerusalem Quartet returns to Cal Performances with a concert of "firsts," the first published string quartets of Brahms and Janáček, and Mozart's D major Quartet, K. 575, the first of his celebrated "Prussian" Quartets.

Program: Mozart: Quartet in D Major; Janáček: Quartet No. 1, *Kreutzer Sonata*; Brahms: Quartet No. 1 in C Minor

Gamelan Çudamani
Bamboo to Bronze

Fri, Oct 22, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall
Prices start at $28

This dazzling troupe featuring 24 of Bali's finest dancers and musicians presents the world premiere of *Bamboo to Bronze*. A synthesis of sound, motion, and visual power, the full-length work showcases the splendor of music and dance in Bali, from the intimate sounds of a small village to the dynamic and technically dazzling sound of the brilliant seven-toned Gamelan Semarandana.

Commissioned by Cal Performances and UCLA Live

Beowulf:
The Epic in Performance
Benjamin Bagby, *voice and Anglo-Saxon harp*

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Zellerbach Playhouse
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Medievalist and early music specialist Benjamin Bagby brings one of literature's great sagas to life in this mesmerizing performance. The celebrated tale of King Hrothgar, the monster Grendel, and the hero Beowulf unfolds in the epic poem, sung and recited in the original Anglo-Saxon (with supertitles), while Bagby accompanies himself on the medieval six-string lyre.

Artist Talk: Fri, Oct 29, 12–1 pm, Zellerbach Playhouse. Discussion with Benjamin Bagby and Dr. Stefan Marsel

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PICKS

Michael Krasny

Known for his in-depth interviews with fascinating people as the host of KQED's *Forum*, **Michael Krasny** becomes even more fascinating himself with ***Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest***, his book about not knowing whether God exists and about how that uncertainty affects morality, happiness, and hope. Question God with Krasny on Friday, Oct. 15, at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley), 7:30 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com *— Anneli Rufus*

Harry Hamlin

He held the title role in the 1979 TV miniseries *Studs Lonigan*, but **Harry Hamlin** also attended UC Berkeley. In his memoir ***Full Frontal Nudity: The Making of an Accidental Actor***, Hamlin looks back on a career whose milestones include roles in *L.A. Law*, *Clash of the Titans*, *Making Love*, *Dancing With the Stars*, and *Batman: The Animated Series*. Meet him at **Books, Inc.** (1344 Park St., Alameda) on Friday, Oct. 15, 1 p.m., free. BooksInc.net *— A.R.*

Claude Lalumière

A [illegible] is an alien; a [illegible] rises [illegible] Canadian author/editor **Claude Lalumière**'s short story collection ***Objects of Worship*** presents unusual characters finding unlikely objects of reverence. Meet the author of *The World's Forgotten Boy* and the *Scorpions from Hell: To Dream the Impossible Dream*, and other books at **The Other Change of Hobbit** (3264 Adeline St., Berkeley) on Sunday, Oct. 17, 4 p.m., free. OtherChangeofHobbit.com *— A.R.*

Hiromi Ito

Hiromi Ito

A [illegible] finalist for Japan's prestigious Akutagawa Prize and winner of the Takami Jun Award, Tokyo-born **Hiromi Ito** embraces the persona of writer-as-shaman in such poetry collections as *Green Flame* and *Wild Grass Upon a Riverbank*. She has also authored books of essays and translated medieval Buddhist sutras and *The Cat in the Hat* into Japanese. Meet her at the **Mills Hall Living Room** at **Mills College** (5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland) on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m., free. *Mills.edu — A.R.*

L&L

Great Good Word for Books, 4120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

First Person Singular Innovation Readings With local actors reading short stories. Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

Harry Hamlin Reading from his memoir, *Full Frontal Nudity: The Making of an Accidental Actor*. Fri., Oct. 15, 1 p.m. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-7777. BooksInc.net.

Hiromi Ito The Japanese poet speaks as part of the Mills College Contemporary Writers Series. Tue., Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m., free. Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Jay Michaelson Reading and discussion, *Everything is God: The Radical Path of Nondual Judaism*. Tue., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. [illegible] Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

Jeff Haas Presenting his book *The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther*. Sat., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-1196. www.revolutionbooks.org/

Jeff Sharlet Signing and discussing his book, *The Family* and *C Street: The Fundamentalist Threat to American Democracy*. Wed., Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m., $1 [illegible] Library, 952 Moraga Rd., Lafayette, 925-283-3872. LafayetteFriends.org.

Jessica [illegible] Ward Presenting her historical novel *The Report*. Wed., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Books Inc., Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Josh Kun Reading and presenting research from his new book, *The Arthur Flow*. Thu., Oct. 14, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Stiles Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-647-5345. Berkeley.edu.

Katherine [illegible] [illegible] her memoirs, *[illegible] 9 Year of Paying Attention*. Tue., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. [illegible] Books Inc., Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Fran [illegible] Reading from *Air Raising on Mars*. Fri., Oct. 15, 7 p.m. Books Inc., Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Laura Cunningham Presenting her new book, *State of Change: Forgotten Landscapes of California*. Mon., Oct. 18, 6–7:30 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Lisa [illegible] Reading her kids' book, *Vampire Boy's Good Night*. Sun., Oct. 17, 11 a.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Louise Penny Reading from *Bury Your Dead: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel*. Mon., Oct. 18, 7 p.m. Books Inc., Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Patrick Rothfuss Reading and discussing *Dragon's Breath: A [illegible]*. Thu., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. [illegible] bookseller, 3600 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, 925-736-9050. [illegible]booksellers.com.

Randy Shaw Presenting his new book, *Beyond the Fields: Cesar Chavez, the UFW, and the Struggle for Justice in the 21st Century*. Thu., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. [illegible], 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965. [illegible]bookstore.com.

Rick Yancey Presenting his new novel, *The Curse of the Wendigo*. Thu., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Telling Lines, A Fall Storytelling Jamboree Featuring well-known and local children's storytellers, including [illegible] Dulles, [illegible] Ylgigo, Muriel Rolland, and Tim Ereneta. Sat., Oct. 16, 1–5 p.m. $10 adults, $6 children. Berkwood Hedge School, 1809 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-883-6990. www.berkwood.org.

Timothy [illegible] and Barbara [illegible] Reading from their respective poetry collections as part of Poetry Flash. Thu., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

Vanessa [illegible] Reading and sharing images from her recent graphic novels, *Drawing at the [illegible]* and *Make Me a Woman*. Mon., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

PUBLIC INTEREST

[illegible] Seat Check Have certified safety technicians inspecting car seats. Mon., Oct. 18, 10 a.m.–noon, free. [illegible] Home Fords, 15553 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 925-913-3297.

Food Stamp Program Third Tuesday of every month, [illegible] p.m. Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Suite 100, Oakland, 510-238-3480, OaklandLibrary.org.

Free Guided Walking Tours of Downtown Oakland With eight itineraries to choose from. Reservations recommended but not required. More information at 510-238-3234. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 10–11:30 a.m. Continues through Oct. 30. Free. Downtown Oakland, 12th St. and Broadway, Oakland.

Free [illegible] Psychedelic and [illegible] Roundtable discussion about the virtues of various plants and their effects and the ways in which their use and prohibition have affected culture. Saturdays, 1:30–3 p.m. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-0751.

Free Walking Tour of Downtown Berkeley [illegible] Neighborhood Led by Lesley Emmington. Sun., Oct. 17, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. [illegible] and University Ave. and Shattuck Ave., University Ave. and Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Rally for Peace Sponsored by the East Bay Gray Panthers and the Strawberry Creek Lodge Seniors Association. Bring music and signs. Fri., Oct. 15, 2–3 p.m., free. University Ave. [illegible] Hill, Berkeley.

SPOKEN WORD

Hella Lack F night of poetry and spoken word. Thursdays, 8:30–10:30 p.m., donations requested. EastSide Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629.

Free Vibes Experimental poetry and [illegible] words. Third Sunday of every month, 7 p.m. 21 Grand, 416 25th St., Oakland, 510-444-7263. 21Grand.org.

Open Mic Sign-up at 7:30 p.m. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 8 p.m., $3–$5 suggested donation. Gelateria Naia Lounge, Lower Sproul Plaza, Berkeley, 510-643-8566.

Poetry Unscrolled A [illegible] open mic with featured readers, directed by poetry ensemble Tres Santos. First and Third Saturday of every month, 7:30–9 p.m., [illegible]. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2888. WorldGroundCafe.com.

Sporting With Amaryllis Reads A "multimedia poetic" series featuring Elys Mayler. Fri., Dec. 5, 7–10:30 p.m., $10. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170.

Synergy Within: a Open Mic Collegial women's reading hosted by Jeanne Lupton. Info: 510-632-7534. Third Sunday of every month, 3–5 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda, 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Thursday at Word Beat A weekly spoken-word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 8 p.m., free. AngelFire.com/poetry/wordbeat. Mediterraneum Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1128.

BODY&SOUL

Grieving Mindfully

East Bay filmmaker Michelle Petcolas seeks out the spiritual side of death

Michele Petcolas

When someone you love is about to die, drop everything. "Don't wait and don't worry about appearing foolish," said sociologist **Michelle Petcolas**, producer/director of the award-winning **"Secrets of Life and Death"** film series. "Sing the song your mother loves even if you're in the hospital and she's in a coma and everyone will think you're crazy. Listen to the person who is dying. It's their death. Let them lead if they are able."

"Death trumps all other commitments," Petcolas continued. "When a very close friend who was dying called me from her hospital bed and told me this was it, I left work and took three buses across San Francisco to be with her. ... When she did finally pass, I was there."

Petcolas learned this lesson the hard way when — in 1998, six months apart — her father died of Alzheimer's Disease and her mother of cancer. Although she had cared for them in their final weeks, Petcolas was not present for their deaths.

"I made a lot of mistakes and missed a lot of important moments" while tending to what she calls "the mundane 'bedpan side of death.'" Yet having studied Sufism since 1984, she knew that death is also imbued with what she calls "the sublimity of the divine."

She sought to capture it on film. *Facing Death ... With Open Eyes* featured stroke-afflicted spiritual teacher Baba Ram Dass, cancer-stricken Buddhist writer Rick Fields, and others speaking candidly about their fates. *Caring for Dying: The Art of Being Present* featured the founder of San Francisco's Zen Hospice Project, among others. At the **First Congregational Church of Berkeley** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley) on Tuesday, October 19, Petcolas screens the series' third film, ***The Heart of Grieving***, which features — among others — a woman who assisted an AIDS-afflicted friend after his family abandoned him.

"There is something very arresting, almost sacred, about being in the presence of someone who is nearing death," Petcolas said. "By being present, wholly present, I was able to connect to that sublimity while doing my interviews."

She also felt it when interviewing caregivers who had accompanied others in their final moments. "Divinity is always available to us, not only at death," Petcolas said. "But we are usually too caught up in everyday life to notice it. Death breaks the illusion of daily life and reminds us of who we really are and why we are here. That's why I am so drawn to it. ... You can't have one side without the other. Death is both messy and exalted."

That our culture ignores both aspects "has had sad consequences for many people at the ends of their lives," she said. "We are often encouraged to fight illnesses long past the point of any life-enhancing benefits. Doctors are reluctant to give their honest prognosis for fear of destroying hope. ... As a result, important conversations do not take place. We experience suffering and pain in our final days and unknowingly forfeit a more conscious and peaceful passage." 7 p.m. $8-$10. SecretsofLifeandDeath.com

— Anneli Rufus

To share this story, type: eby.by/petcolas

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Bay Street Stroller Stories Fitness program for moms to incorporate power walking, jogging, body toning, and strength and flexibility training into their baby strolls. Info: 800-055-0305 or StrollerStrides.net/oakland. Fridays, 9:30 a.m., first class is free. $20 for a 10-class pass. Old Navy, 5620 Bay St., Emeryville.

Capoeira-Based Fitness Classes Ongoing classes, 12-1 p.m. $15. Capoeira Mandinga Oakland, 4137 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-[illegible]. Mandinga.org.

Fibromyalgia Support Group Sufferers and their supporters are invited to attend. Third Sunday of every month, 12-2 p.m., free. 510-644-3273. Alta Bates Summit Center, Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

Every's Kids, Oakland Elizabeth House A mobile health van where doctors provide immunizations, health education, checkups, blood pressure checks, and more than screenings [illegible] free. [illegible] physicians [illegible] and Gene Lewis. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. Second [illegible] of every month, 5:30-7 p.m., 510-444-4330. Oakland Elizabeth House, 6423 Colby St., Oakland. 510-658-1380. OakElizHouse.org.

Nutrition Essentials for Everyone: A Lesson in Eating for Health and Vitality Workshop. Making nutrition fun with cooking demonstrations and group discussion. Register at BaumanCollege.org. Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. Continues through Nov. 17. $405. Bauman College, 805 Grayson St., Berkeley, 510-540-7041. BaumanCollege.org.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Meditation Circle Get Buddhist and learn about vegans and [illegible] with Helena Masoncelle. Ongoing. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., $15. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Angel Light Metaphysical Fair With tarot, clairvoyant, and crystal readings and much more. Sun., Oct. 17, 1-4 p.m. $15 for fifteen minutes. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Healing Breath A presentation on the power of breath by meditation educator Arnaud Maitland. Sat., Oct. 16, 10-11 a.m. free. Dharma Publishing Bookstore, 2210 Harold Way, Berkeley. 510-900-1500. www.dharmapublishing.com

Astrology for Beginners With instructor Claire Blankenship. Starting Oct. 18, Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through Nov. 22. $20 per class. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Good Night: Havdalah Bedtime Special with Jewish Songs & Stories Learn Jewish-themed bedtime stories with Mira [illegible] and Rabbi Bridget Wynne. For kids 3-5 and their parents. $5 suggested. Sat., Oct. 16, 11:30 a.m.-noon. Free. Jewish Gateways, 1414 Walnut St., El Cerrito.

Growing Your Child's Identity in a Jewish Interfaith Family Workshop focusing on how children from interfaith families can integrate multiple religions into their identity and practice. Sun., Oct. 17, 1-2:30 p.m. $7, free to Temple Sinai members. Temple Sinai, 2808 Summit St., Oakland. 510-451-3263. OaklandSinai.org.

Ministry As Vocation Conference for Prospective Students A free conference designed to help prospective students decide whether the ministry is right for them. For full schedule of events, see the PSR's website or call 510-849-8252. Oct. 16-17. Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-8206. PSR.edu.

Old Testament Book Study Led by PhD [illegible] Peter [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-8206. PSR.edu.

YOGA & BODYWORK

Donation-Based Prenatal Yoga Mondays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Continues through Dec. 21. donation. Namaste Center, 1908 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1390. NamasteCenter.org.

Start with Square One Beginners Workshop Workshop focusing on the fundamentals of Hatha yoga. Geared toward beginning students. Price includes a free week of unlimited classes. Sat., Oct. 16, 2-4:45 p.m. $35. Square One Yoga Collective, 1540 [illegible] St., Emeryville. squareoneyoga.com. ■

PICKS

Day of the Dead Altar Workshop

Honor deceased loved ones by making **Day of the Dead** altars with mixed-media/assemblage artist **Madeline Behrens-Brigham** at the **Institute of Mosaic Art** (3001 Chapman St., Oakland) on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 16-17. The two-day class focuses on adding personal mementos and photos to materials provided by the instructor. A potluck lunch enhances the communal aspect of the experience. Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. $155 plus $35 materials fee. InstituteofMosaicArt.com *— Anneli Rufus*

Interfaith Families Workshop

If, say, parents hold two different faiths, does it mean that kids will grow up confused? At **Temple Sinai** (2808 Summit St., Oakland) on Sunday, Oct. 17, **Building Jewish Bridges** presents **Growing Your Child's Identity in a Jewish Interfaith Family**, a workshop geared toward helping children honor multiple traditions drawn from multiple heritages. 1 p.m. $7 (free to Temple Sinai members). BuildingJewishBridges.org *— A.R.*

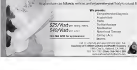
Medicinal Plants Walk/Class

With microclimates ranging from [illegible] to sun-baked, the Bay Area is home to a wide variety of local plants. Focusing on their historical and contemporary applications with instructions on using them, herbalist **Teller Lemmer** leads a walk/class titled **Medicinal Plants of the Bay Area** at the **Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve** (Skyline Blvd. and Snake Rd., Oakland) on Sunday, Oct. 17. $45. BlueWindBMC.com *— A.R.*

Gurcharan Das.

Goodness Talk

In the ancient Sanskrit epic known as the *Mahabharata*, each character embodies a human virtue or flaw. At the **Bancroft Hotel** (2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) on Tuesday, Oct. 19, philosopher **Gurcharan Das** (author of *The Difficulty of Being Good: On the Subtle Art of Dharma*) lectures on the *Mahabharata*'s timeless lessons regarding courage, despair, remorse, envy, awareness, compassion, duty, vengefulness, and more. 5 p.m. free. SouthAsia.berkeley.edu *— A.R.*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AQUARIUM AGE

FANTASY BECOMES REALITY

For the week of October 13-19, 2010

By Rafee Finn

A window of astral inspiration opens this week, clearing recent clouds of intensity (if only for a moment) and offering opportunities to actually see the man and woman behind the curtain. Pay attention! This is a powerful chance to appreciate the power of an idea, particularly when that idea is married to a media blitz of indelible images. It is also a chance to witness just how deeply personal desire determines what's seen and heard, especially these days when so many unconscious or semi-conscious predilections are being preyed upon.

From a personal perspective, it's akin to walking through a house of mirrors where the distorted reflections reveal just how deeply unresolved relationship issues affect reactions and decisions. From a collective perspective, the political rhetoric coupled with 24/7 ad campaigns (mostly focused on character assassination rather than the issues) is also akin to a house of mirrors — only in this dimension, the distortions have the potential to reveal strategies designed to manipulate viewers. A clear-headed, keen intelligence is required to side step the trap of projection so that one can take advantage of the genuine inspiration available during the week.

A Sun/Neptune trine is the source of this week's fantasy factor. Known in some astrological circles as the destroyer of illusion, Neptune symbolizes imagination, sensitivity, receptivity, projection, illusion, delusion, deceit, the urge to merge, and all states of altered consciousness. It's a mighty force, and given that our perceptions are largely based on psychological and emotional factors rather than just the facts, it takes skill to best wield its force. When Neptune aligns positively with the Sun, sympathy and empathy abound, which means you can expect more than a fair share of bonding with your fellow travelers. This trine also intensifies the desire for spiritual nourishment, so don't be surprised if you are inspired to search for a deeper understanding of your existing path or for new ways of recognizing the sacred in daily life.

It's a Sun/Mercury conjunction, with Mercury also in a trine to Neptune, that blurs the lines between fact and fiction and generates distortion. This conjunction leans toward a subjective perspective and the inability to assess the facts as they are. Under this influence, personal opinion is often misconstrued as truth. Mercury is often characterized as a trickster, and when it combines with Neptune, already slippery with the potential for deception, the blarney flows effortlessly. Couple that with a subjective mindset, and we run the risk of being seduced by what we want to hear without bothering to listen to what's really being said.

While the possibilities for inspiration are truly stellar, the probability of either being deceived or deceiving one's self is off the charts. Of course, common sense always wards off tricksters, so do your best to stay grounded. Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Clarity about what it is you truly want to accomplish is the key to making all the right moves. So even if you don't think you have the time to reflect on the big picture, make sure you do.

TAURUS You must choose: Get dragged down by an oppressive situation, or recognize that you're caught in a repetitive pattern that is in dire need of transformation. Sounds like a simple choice, but breaking this spell requires strength.

GEMINI It's all about strategy. While I'm not suggesting that you surrender your hopes and wishes, I am advising you to hone your vision toward what you can realistically expect to accomplish in a relatively short amount of time.

CANCER The solution is moderation, which means you can't ignore the situation and you also can't push too hard toward a specific outcome. The best position is a wait-and-see attitude that will allow all the different threads to weave a new picture of reality.

LEO Conversations with significant others could trigger anxiety about what lies ahead. Rather than succumbing to the stress, do whatever it is you do to cope — just make sure it's healthy.

VIRGO Look at the situation objectively and you'll realize just how narrow your point of view has been. Yes, there are challenges, but all that's needed to overcome the obstacles is an attitude adjustment.

LIBRA Even though you are still in the midst of a relationship intensive, it is possible to shift the focus away from what isn't working toward what is. Remember, whatever we focus our attention on becomes our reality.

SCORPIO There are real opportunities for you to see deeply into persistent patterns that have previously eluded your awareness. That insight, coupled with the willingness to work hard, will help you to transform the situation.

SAGITTARIUS How do you want to share your gifts with the world? Teaching? Volunteering? Campaigning? Through artistic endeavors? Be clear about what you want to do and how to do it will become clear.

CAPRICORN You are inspired to change your financial picture, and while your intentions are good, be careful not to get swayed by someone else's hidden agenda. Get the facts first, and then make a decision.

AQUARIUS There is no need to be shy about assuming a leadership position. Simply rely on your innate sense of fairness and you will make the appropriate choices.

PISCES Allow yourself to get lost in a dream. Fantasize about a universe where cats are the most intelligent species and rule with gracious disdain. Whatever your choice, allow your dreams to revitalize your spirit. ■

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For More Info

Rafee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Rafee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2010 by Rafee Finn.

The pizza bubbles with creamy mozzarella, nutty parmesan, and sharp pecorino. Chris Duffey

A NEW FACE ON FOURTH STREET

Zut! brings festive Mediterranean to Berkeley's enduring shopping district.

By Matthew Stafford

Berkeley's tony **Fourth Street** commercial district is a swell place to shop for a designer scarf, a rattle, or a paperback; to relax with a latte and watch the world go by; stretch and soak at a high-end spa, or dine in some of the city's best eateries. This half-mile stretch of brasseries and boutiques wasn't always so posh, of course. A century ago the area was home to a bustling community of waterfront factories and workingmen's cottages (and one enduring restaurant, **Spenger's**) but by the 1960s it was on the decline. Then in the late Seventies, the **Abrams/Millikan & Kent** design firm purchased the parcel from the city and transformed it into a high-end shopping and dining corridor.

Today the area is as inviting as ever. Pastel nouveau-Mediterranean stucco mingles with reclaimed industrial sheds, lofts, and factories to create a pleasantly haphazard mix of architectural styles. Benches, trees, and wide brick sidewalks encourage strolling and sitting. Upscale tenants offer festive window-shopping, there's live music now and then, and the occasional passenger train adds a touch of last-century glamour. This ever-evolving shopping district has lost a few tenants in recent years, but in late August, **Zut!**, a new Mediterranean restaurant, opened in the reclaimed **Fourth Street Grill**'s old quarters. (The name comes from the French *Zut alors!*, an expression of mild surprise that roughly translated means *Dang!* or *Blimey!*)

It's owned by **Denny Abrams** and **Rick Milliken**, the designers who purchased and developed the district thirty years ago, and the place fits perfectly into the whole Fourth Street milieu. Sidewalk tables, sliding glass windows, and a retractable skylight let diners interact with the world outside. The interior is as classy as any of the showrooms up the street, with a rich chocolate/amber color scheme lit by clear-glass grapevine chandeliers, and bare wooden tables, rough beams, and copper-edged mirrors adding rustic accents. A festive, cafe-themed mural by Danville's **Emily Farish** wraps around two walls of the main dining room, there's a zinc-topped bar with beautiful custom-cast glass shelving, and a thoughtful mix of cool jazz, R&B and Cole Porter adds to the restaurant's warm, festive ambience. The house cuisine is regional Mediterranean and executive chef **Jim Wimborough** (**Kokkari, Rubicon, Boulevard**) combines spices, concepts, and cooking techniques from North Africa, the Middle East, and Southern Europe, with protein and produce from small local farms and ranches into dishes that are inventive and usually tasty — if not always well executed.

Zut!
1820 Fourth St., Berkeley
510-644-0444 or ZutonFourth.com
Cash, all major credit cards.
Hours: Brunch Sat. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Lunch Mon.-Sat. 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dinner Sun. 5:30-9 p.m., Mon.-Thu. 5:30-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 5:30-11 p.m.,
bar menu daily 4-5:30 p.m.
Reservations accepted

Sample Menu

Stuffed Squid	$9
Lamb Meatballs	$8
Three-Cheese Pizza	$14
Pork Roll	$21
Strawberry Granita	$7
Agrume Cocktail	$9

The sliced ahi, for instance, was beautifully arranged on a bed of really terrific charred beets and a green lentil vinaigrette that would be good spooned over stale Wonder Bread, but the fish itself didn't have that creamy-dreamy texture you want and expect from seared, nearly raw tuna. The spiced half-chicken was served with a wonderful olive pistachio relish and warm, smoky fingerling potatoes, but the chicken was fairly dry and not particularly spicy to boot. Thick slabs of pork loin from the rotisserie were also on the tough side and were ribboned with a little too much fat, even for us, but the peppery arugula and spicy, creamy polenta that shared the platter sure were tasty.

The starters were a better bet. Lamb meatballs arrived at the table hot, juicy and fork-tender with lots of smoky flavor and a rich, thick tomato sauce fortified with mashed ripe avocado. Crisp, cracker-thin pizza bubbled with creamy mozzarella, nutty parmesan, and sharp pecorino (random branchlets of stinging nettle didn't contribute much, though). And the chorizo-stuffed squid was an unexpected treat: Its mildly briny flavor was perfectly balanced against the peppery sweetness of the sausage and the tangy lemon and warm souk-bazaar spices that accented it.

Vegetarians will find plenty of meat-free options on the *Zut!* menu. Start your meal with a mezze platter of hummus, baba ghanoush, and roasted pepper spread, fried Padron peppers with lemon and sea salt, or one of the four seasonal salads (greens with sunflower seeds, romaine with radicchio and scallions, tomato with cucumber and feta, or arugula with nectarines and shaved fennel on our visit). Two of the daily pizzas tend to be meatless — perhaps a classic tomato-basil-mozzarella and the three-cheese with stinging nettles. There's usually a meatless pasta on the menu (bucatini with tomatoes, parmesan, and pine nuts, say) as well as a few veggie side dishes.

The well-chosen fifty-item wine list focuses primarily on French and Italian vineyards, with a few small California wineries thrown in. Most are in the $30-$50 range; sixteen are available by the glass. The beer list is brief yet impressive (**Ayinger Brauweisse** and **Bison Chocolate Stout** are two of the options) and the bar shakes up half a dozen inventive house cocktails, including the brisk, refreshing Maltese (vodka, grapefruit, mint, and a splash of cream) and the rounder, sweeter Agrume (gin, lime, grapefruit, bitters, and elderflower syrup). The house-made mint lemonade, meanwhile, is a pleasantly light and fizzy nonalcoholic sipping option.

Dessert was the best part of the meal. There was a lush, silky pot de crème made with unrefined muscovado sugar that gave it a deep, rich toffee-like flavor. The sourdough bread pudding, like the ahi and the chicken, had a dry, overdone texture, but it tasted nice and buttery, and several plump golden raisins juiced things up nicely. And the strawberry granita was dreamy: bright, cool, and refreshing, it tasted like bound-to-God freshly plucked strawberries distilled into a sherbet glass, and was served with several chopped-up candy-sweet ruby red strawberries on top and a delicate little strawberry jam linzer cookie on the side. Enjoy it out on one of the sidewalk tables with a glass of vin santo or a cup of Moroccan mint tea while you take in the October sunshine and count the passing shopping bags. ■

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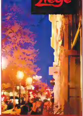

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ALAMEDA

AngelFish 863 Island Dr., Suite C-2, Alameda, 510-748-0405 (Japanese/Seafood) $-$$

Bono 2508 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4109 (California Cuisine/Greek/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Bartolomeo 2319 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda 510-521-5800 (California Cuisine) $$$

Kip's Bar 3711 Solano Ave. Alameda, 510-769-9931 (Diner) $

Havana 1518 Park St., Alameda 510-521-0130 (Cuban) $$

Otaez Restaurant 1615 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-9090 (Mexican) $

Sushi King 2250 Park St. Alameda 510-523-8888 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zen 2315 Santa Clara Ave. Alameda, 510-521-1178 (Eclectic/Exotic/Other Fusion/Chinese/Hawaiian/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Korean/Pizza/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Bacon Bistro 1491 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-5801 (American/Southeast Asian/Cajun/Creole/Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches) $$

Bottom of the Bakery & Cafe 841 San Pablo Ave. Albany 510-527-1734 (Bakery/American) $$

Solano Taqueria 1808 Solano Ave. Berkeley 510-528-1481 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave. El Cerrito, 510-528-3433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Fonda 1501A Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-559-9006 (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Kathmandu 1410 Solano Ave. Albany 510-526-3222 (Tibetan) $$

Kensington Circus Pub 389 Colusa Ave. Kensington, 510-524-8814 (English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$

Lee Thai Kitchen 1400 Solano Ave. Albany, 510-559-3278 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Burmese) $

Renee's Place 1477 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-7008 (Chinese) $$

Shelf 1530 Solano Ave. Berkeley 510-528-2542 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Spats Log Cabin 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-558-0484 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Walk On Stick 1134 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-0000 (Asian) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave. Berkeley, 510-525-5950 (Pizza) $-$$

ANTIOCH, PITTSBURG & BRENTWOOD

Kinder's Famous Meats 5411 Lone Tree Way #180 Brentwood, 925-308-7807 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Mac's Old Depot 3116-E. 18th St. Antioch, 925-757-7000 (American/Italian/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Bistro Persian Cuisine 2142 Center St., Berkeley 510-848-7677 (Middle Eastern/Salads) $$

Kabab Kabob Kitchen 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-649-1048 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-548-6900 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bangkok Thai Cuisine 1953 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-848-6485 (Thai/Burmese) $

Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-647-1790 (American/English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$

Bobby G's Lounge 2128 Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-845-2000 (Italian/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Mexican/Pizza) $$

Bistro Liaison 1849 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-849-2155 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Bombay Cafe 1902 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-1455 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

Chick-O-Pea's 1936 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-540-8800 (Middle Eastern) $

Cinnaholic 2132 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-647-8684 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Dessert/Ice Cream/Bakery/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Gelateria 2170 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-841-7260 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Five 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-225-6055 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Gather 2200 Oxford St., Berkeley 510-809-0400 (Organic/Sustainable/American) $$

Green Papaya 2015 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-845-8866 (Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

International Bazaar 2230 Addison Ave. Berkeley 510-842-9400 (Eclectic/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $

Ippuku 2130 Center St., Berkeley 510-665-1969 (Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$

Addiction BBQ 2130 Oxford St., Berkeley 510-841-8828 (American/Barbecue) $$

Jayakarta 2026 University Ave. Berkeley 510-841-0884 (Southeast Asian) $-$$

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-843-8277 (Brewpub/Pizza/Music Venues/Bars & Clubs) $$

Looney's Smokehouse 2400 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-649-0625 (Barbecue) $-$$

Shattuck International Sports Cafe 2050 University Ave. Berkeley 510-775-1450 (American/Brewpub) $$

Sweet's 1890 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-843-2164 (American/Diner) $

Phoenix 1923 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2148 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Pomegranate 1563 University Ave., Berkeley 510-665-5067 (Indian/Middle Eastern) $$

Raw Energy 2050 Bancroft St., Berkeley 510-665-9464 (Vegetarian/Vegan/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $

Revival Bar & Kitchen 2102 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-549-9950 (American/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

San Francisco Soup Company 2512 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-848-7681 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Steve's Kitchen Cafe 2534 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-548-0118 (Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Yogurt Harmony 2250 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-6900 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

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BERKELEY-NORTH

Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 415-824-4652 ext. 3 (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Dolo's Shattuck Restaurant 1841 Euclid Ave., Berkeley 510-549-3486 (Mexican) $-$$

Cha-Ya 1686 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-981-1213 (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Grégoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Guerilla Cafe 1620 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-845-2211 (Coffeehouse/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch) $

Nature's Express 1823 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-5331 (Vegetarian/Vegan/American) $

Ambulan Cafe 1818 Euclid Ave. Berkeley 510-845-3663 (American) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Sahana of India 2445 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-848-7584 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Finfine 2556 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley 510-883-0303 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

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Manpuku 2977 College Ave. Berkeley, 510-848-2536 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Dimo 2395 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-356-4090 (Greek/Turkish/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Surya Indian Sweets 2449 Sacramento St. Berkeley, 510-841-4848 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Paragon Bar & Cafe 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave. Berkeley, 510-649-8538 (American Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Shen Hua 2914 College Ave. Berkeley 510-883-1777 (Chinese) $-$$

Nabolom Bake Shop 2944 College Ave. Berkeley 510-558-8538 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Bakery) $$

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Anchalee 1094 1096 Dwight Way, Berkeley 510-848-4015 (Thai/Burmese) $$

Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria 4301 San Pablo Ave. Emeryville 510-547-0550 (Bakery/Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Bette's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-644-3230 (American/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $$

The Bread Workshop 1398 University Ave., Berkeley 510-649-9745 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

Brennan's Restaurant 700 University Ave., Berkeley 510-841-0960 (American) $

Bucci's 6121 Hollis St. Emeryville, 510-547-4725 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Chez Ladina 1480 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley 510-558-8111 (Bakery/Mexican) $

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Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-883-1720 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

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Pizza Italiano Quatro

91 Shattuck Sq., Berkeley, 510-540-7701. Owner Nicki Bilotte grew up in Torre del Greco, near Naples, and is on a mission to bring authentic Italian cafe culture Stateside. For him, it's all about the freshness. In the basement below PIQ (pronounced "peek"), master bakers headed by former soccer star Rafa Verga start work at 2 a.m. every day and use imported machines to create an ever-shifting array of sweets and savories stuffed and topped with seasonal produce, meats, eggs, and cheese: lofty focaccia Valtellina, pocket-like *fagottini*, gleaming pastries, savory *brioché*, surprisingly light calzone, sometimes showy and sometimes melt-in-your-mouth thin-crusted pizza — and that's even before we reach the pastry case, which holds glorious fruit tarts, cookies, cakes, tea tarts, and more. $

Farmers' Market Bistro

[illegible] Clay St., Oakland, 510-238-8780. Deep in its unassuming barnlike ambience, this Old Oakland eatery serves several impressively conceived, attractively presented examples of California cuisine. The seared ahi salad brims with [illegible] of luscious tuna; the wild king salmon burger is spicy, rich, and juicy; and the Muscovy duck with squash and sweet potatoes is tender and smoky. The flourless chocolate cake has lots of fudgy flavor, but the homemade peach ice cream tastes like freezer burn. All produce is sourced from farmers' markets in Oakland and San Francisco, while the meat, poultry, and seafood are organically raised. $$

CommonWealth Cafe & Pub

[illegible] Oakland, 510-663-3508. Ahna Adair co-owns the CommonWealth with her brother Pete Jeffryes and her husband Ross Adair, a Scot who learned to appreciate simple traditional cooking in his grandmother's kitchen. He prepares it here in the form of English-style breakfasts and pub grub with a cool California twist. Steel-cut oats, beans and toast, egg-and-chutney sandwiches, and the like augment [illegible] galore. Bottled beers from the UK — including such exotics as Twisted Thistle, Wee Heavy Dogma, and Scottish Cask from Scotland — join several more on tap, including local varieties from Oakland's Linden Street Brewery. $

Locanda da Eva

2826 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-9600. Fresh, seasonal Italian fare spiked with unique and well-balanced spices and ingredients from throughout the Mediterranean Basin star at this plain yet handsome Berkeley trattoria. Bountiful salads, house-made pasta and charcuterie, thin-crusted Roman-style pizzas, and fresh-from-the-farm/ranch/orchard entrées are reliably comforting, soulful, and imaginatively executed. Get the house-made gelato, sorbetto, and cookies for dessert. Inventive specialty cocktails. $$$

Ironwood BBQ

[illegible] Berkeley, 510-981-8728. The Memphis-style dry rubs that Marcele Kutkauskaite uses in her two-day smoking process deliver a darkly smoky, spicy-sweet nose. Kutkauskaite and her mother are from Lithuania; her stepfather spent many years in the American South. The three blend their skills and traditions to create sincere, satisfying meals. Kutkauskaite slowly smokes fresh beef brisket, pork roast, ribs, and chicken acquired from Eastman Farms, a provider of hormone- and antibiotic-free meat raised on small local ranches. Side dishes augment the richness of these meats (and of a hefty tofu "veggie-Q" sandwich): mellow, brisket-spiked baked beans; creamy-peppery scalloped potatoes; and cranberry-studded coleslaw sliced so thinly that it shimmers on the tongue like lace. $$

Cinnaholic

2132 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-647-8684. After meeting in late 2008 and realizing they were both passionate animal-rights advocates, Shannon and Florian Radke fell in love. Shortly after their June 2010 wedding, they opened Cinnaholic, which sells vegan cinnamon rolls, brownies, cookies, and coffee. Take your pick from among 18 frosting flavors (including root beer, caramel, and wasabi) and 25 toppings. The rolls are hefty and sweet. If they're expensive, it's because being vegan is expensive, requiring the purchase of compostable containers and ingredients such as sugar that wasn't manufactured with "bone char," a substance made from animal bones and used to process standard sugar. $

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CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

El Aguacate 4713 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-691-5820. (Central American/Salvadoran) $

Ginto's 4575G Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-680-0718. (Persian/South American) $$$

Kinder's Barbecue Meats 1893 [illegible] Industrial Way, Concord, 925-826-8088. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Barbecue Meats 3227 Murray Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-2383. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Los Panchos Tacos 1009 [illegible], Concord, 925-685-7181. (Mexican) $

Toscana Ristorante 2151 Salvio St., Ste. I, Concord, 925-521-0810. (Italian) $$-$$$

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

The Small Fish 20850 San Pablo Ave., Crockett, 510-727-0403. (American/Seafood) $$$-$$$$

The Potato 23 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4872. (Deli/Gourmet/Austrian/Coffeehouse) $

Kinder's Oakland Meats 3000 San Pablo Ave., Ste. F, Oakland, 510-724-2380. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kang Dong 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-231-0316. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Oakland [illegible] Sycamore Ave., Unit B, Hercules, 510-245-1990. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Tacos Los Primos Parking lot at 548 23rd St., Richmond. (Mexican) $

El Tapatio 530 23rd St., Richmond, 510-215-0999. (Restaurant/Mexican) $

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Cafe Tipitelia 46801 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible]. (Chinese) $$-$$$

Vivant Cuan 3564 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-798-3400. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

De Afghanan Kabob House 37405 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-9599. (Afghan/Middle Eastern) $$$

[illegible] Kabob 43781 Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-440-1510. (Afghan/Kabobs/Deli) $

[illegible] & Kabob Place 40806 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-623-8000. (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

New China 1743 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-475-8485. (Chinese) $

Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-8200. (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

Kinto Fuboi 25088 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-785-7133. (Chinese) $$

The Hayward Roast 22877 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-537-5522. (American/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

The Mexican Sandi 925 B St., Hayward, 510-538-8711. (American/Diner) $

Thai Gailey 1370 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-351-2345. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Toyo Sushi 1477 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-352-7300. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Val's Burgers 2185 Kelly St., Hayward, 510-886-3787. (American/Diner) $

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133. (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-7831. (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Yumy Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2400. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Il Jerro [illegible] 3589 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-0897. (Piedmont) $-$$

La Toscana Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101, Lafayette, 925-284-5260. (Italian) $$-$$$

Rustica 3505 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-385-0700. (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Moraga Royal Cafe 1040 Moraga Rd., Moraga, 925-376-1422. (American) $-$$

Vino 3530 Plaza Way, Lafayette, 925-284-1330. (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ.

Bocanova Betty 2226 Broadway, Oakland, 510-291-7100. (Italian) $$$

Battambang Restaurant 850 Broadway, Oakland, 510-839-8815. (Cambodian/Laotian/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

Bocanova 55 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233. (California Cuisine/Caribbean/Central American/Nuevo Latino/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Breads of India 948 Clay St., Oakland, 510-834-7684. (Indian/Pakistani) $$$

Brown Sugar Kitchen 2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, 510-839-7685. (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Phil Oakland, Bar-B-Que 101 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-834-0511. (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $$$

Gum Lau 201 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-3798. (Chinese/Seafood) $

La Furia 1007 Clay St., Oakland, 510-286-8495. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$-$$$

Oak & Noodle Case 718 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5480. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino) $-$$

B&A Cafe 337 Eighth St., Oakland, 510-839-6273. (Chinese) $

La Furia Chalaca 310 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4206. (Peruvian/South American) $$

Gum Kuo 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-268-1288. (Chinese) $

Rosemary & Dorothy's 444 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-898-4448. (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

Huynh 291 15th St., Oakland, 510-891-5238. (Vietnamese) $$

Ichiro 482 15th St., Oakland, 510-452-1994. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$

Kwan 1015 Clay St., Oakland, 510-288-8120. (Caribbean/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Lion Yum 2402 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-270-1818. (Korean) $$

Pieffer's 1155 3rd St., Oakland, 510-893-1950. (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Oak Town Bar & Grill 105 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, 510-268-1700. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Hung Ping 724 Webster St., Oakland, 510-835-8327. (Vietnamese) $

San Francisco Soup Company 1300 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-7687. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Gum Yung 368 10th St. #101, Oakland, 510-839-2798. (Chinese) $-$$

Bakery 300 Broadway, Oakland, 510-251-[illegible]. (California Cuisine) $$$

Sunday [illegible] 341 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Spices 2 369 12th St., Oakland, 510-625-8809. (Chinese) $$

Sun Hing Town Bakery 388 8th St., Oakland, 510-836-8188. (Chinese) $

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200. (Japanese/Sushi/Bars & Clubs/Music Venues) $$$

Yung Kee Restaurant 888 Webster St., Oakland, 510-839-2010. (Seafood) $

OAKLAND EAST

Full House Cafe 2716 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2200. (American/Diner) $

[illegible] La Goalie 3001 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-9908. (Piedmont) $

Texas Restaurant 3372 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-0908. (Mexican) $-$$

Tacosia Pork House 7012 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-8888. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

Pho Hoa Hung 218 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-434-9186. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Oasis El Sol Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland, no phone. (Mexican) $

Piedmont Campos 3658 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-4260. (Mexican) $

Tiki Tom's 306 29th Ave., Oakland, 510-532-5202. (Hawaiian) $$

La Torta Loca 3419 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-7100. (Mexican) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

Bellanico 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5835. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Grape Leaves 4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1700. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Cafe Gratitude 4125 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3914. (French) $$

Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Oakland Fish 3314 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-645-1912. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Oaxacal 4001 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-537-2444. (French) $-$$

Mijori Sushi 3288 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-8854. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zza's Piedmont 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124. (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Cactus Taqueria 5642 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-6180. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Piedmont's 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000. (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Uzen 5201 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-653-8957. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

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Nan Yang 6048 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3298. (Burmese/Asian) $$

Market Theory 6099 Claremont Ave., Oakland. 510-595-8888. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

Rustica 5422 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-1601. (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-6385. (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-985-1213. (Bakery/Cafe/Sandwiches) $-$$

Barlata 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-450-0678. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$

Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-7999. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] House 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-6000. (Korean) $

Kang Tong Jeep 1152 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-596-2908. (Korean) $$

Marc 49 4915 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-1930. (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $-$$

Pizzaiolo 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-4888. (California Cuisine/Vegetarian/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

Sahn Maru 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-653-3366. (Korean) $-$$

Yuyu Za Zang 3919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-653-2238. (Chinese/Korean) $

TRI VALLEY

Bosco's Bones & Brew 11922 Main St., Sunol. 925-862-0821. (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Bridges 44 Church St., Danville. 925-820-7200. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] 2100 First St., Livermore. 925-449-5454. (Seafood) $

Pop's Original 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton. 925-600-9290. (American/Steak House) $$$$

Pleasant Grill 6001-A Ramon Pl., San Ramon. 925-830-1144. (Hawaiian) $

[illegible] Market Place 1100 Town & Country Dr., Suite G, Danville. 925-552-0020. (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 4305 Hopyard Rd., Suite F2, Pleasanton. 925-461-2333. (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 480 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. 925-362-4810. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave., Danville. 925-820-6611. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Taqueria El Ramon 2550 Ramon Pl., San Ramon. 925-328-0519. (Mexican) $

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard 39 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. 925-449-7000. (Mandarin) $$-$$$

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

[illegible] 115 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. 925-855-8000. (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon. 925-244-1222. (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

[illegible] India 1358 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-7664. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 1051 Boulevard Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-280-1088. (Burgers) $-$$

[illegible] 1511 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-939-6555. (California Cuisine/Deli/Italian/Latino) $$

[illegible] 1581 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-952-8808. (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] 1831 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-952-8300. (Barbecue/Deli) $

The Original [illegible] 1495 South Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7451. (Pizza/Deli/Burgers) $$

Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7780. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] & Cafe 2000 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-944-6105. (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

10th Annual Crabby Crab Seafood Festival: With an Iron Chef-style culinary competition, seafood and wine vendors, live music, and more. A fundraiser for the Cal Recreational Sports Foundation's Youth Camp Scholarship Program. Sun., Oct. 17, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-845-7771. Spengers.com

Basic Vegetable Fermentation: Kraut, Marinated Market: Learn how to ferment vegetables and grains. All experience levels welcome; bring a cutting board and knife. Sun., Oct. 17, 1:30-4 p.m. $60. PIE: Permaculture Institute of the East Bay, 3520 Fairview Avenue, Berkeley.

Pleasant Livermore Wine Club Oakland: Meet rotating local vintners and taste their wines, along with a seasonal dinner. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., $70. [illegible], 2811 [illegible] St., Suite A, Berkeley.

City Goats and Chicken Making: Workshop reviews the basics of setting up and maintaining a good habitat in your backyard or as part of a collective. Preceded by a goat-cheese making lesson with instructor [illegible]. Sun., Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $85. PIE: Permaculture Institute of the East Bay, 3520 Fairview Avenue, Berkeley.

Friday Night Flights to Support the North Oakland Farm: Live music and two glasses of wine. All proceeds go to the [illegible] Center. Through Oct. 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m., $10. Angelo's [illegible], 2301 Central Ave., Oakland.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market For info visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.), Alameda.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

Berkeley Market Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Berkeley Adult School, 1707 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Concord Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord. 925-671-3464

Danville Certified Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Market St. at Prospect St., Danville.

Farm Fresh Market Community Berkeley Stand Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-848-1104. EcologyCenter.org. [illegible] Community Center, [illegible] Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. [illegible]

Grand Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakeshore, Oakland. 510-238-1218. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp

Irvington Fremont Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bay St. at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market Located in the courtyard behind the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market At the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Martinez Farmers' Market Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Permanente Martinez Medical Offices, 200 Muir Rd., Martinez.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Medical Center Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market On the cafeteria patio. Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Farmers Market, 4072 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Livermore Farmers' Market & Flight Thursdays Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 28. free. Livermore Farmers' Market, Carnegie Park, Livermore.

North Oakland Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 28. North Oakland [illegible], 5111 [illegible] St., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 90 Broadway Ave., Oakland.

Pinole Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Fernandez Ave. at Pear St., Pinole.

Pittsburg Farmers' Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30. free. Railroad Ave. between 3rd & 5th Sts., Pittsburg.

Pleasant Hill Farmers' Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. Continues through Nov. 20. free. Crescent Dr. at Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill.

Pleasanton Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Pleasanton Farmers market, West Angela St., Pleasanton.

Point Richmond Farmers' Market Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 27. free. Park Pl. (at Washington Ave.), Richmond.

Richmond Certified Farmers Market Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Farmer's Market Fridays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. free. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5150. CI.Berkeley.CA.Us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12196.

Temescal Farmers' Market Info, 510-745-1100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Union City Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Old Alvarado/Cesar Chavez Park, Smith & Watkins St., Union City.

PICK

Old Oakland Beer Festival

It's sudsy plenty as the **Pacific Coast Brewing Company** presents the **Old Oakland Beer Festival** at the intersection of **Washington and 9th streets** in Oakland on Saturday, Oct. 16. Twenty-plus taps will disgorge anniversary ales from Pacific Coast, Bear Republic, Drake's, Speakeasy, Lost Coast, Stone, Rubicon, Port Brewing, Sierra Nevada, and more — with food from local restaurants to soak it up. Noon, free. PacificCoastBrewing.com
— *Anneli Rufus*

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ANIMAL FARM

Writers in heat (*Tamara Drewe*) and a man and his best friend (*My Dog Tulip*)

By Kelly Vance

Gemma Arterton stars as the title character in *Tamara Drewe*.

If we're talking about **Thomas Hardy**, it must be fall. It's practically illegal to discuss Hardy or any other author of literature, dead or alive, in a film review during the holiday, Academy Awards, summer access (previously known as spring), or summer movie seasons. However, when autumn arrives, anything goes, even a loose adaptation of Hardy's ***Far from the Madding Crowd***, dressed up by English graphic novelist **Posy Simmonds** (*Gemma Bovery*) as a sexy, good-natured, slightly smutty comedy of 21st century manners called ***Tamara Drewe***.

Veteran director **Stephen Frears** and screenwriter **Moira Buffini** adapted Simmonds' narrative almost exactly as originally written — with one notable deviation that constitutes a major plot spoiler, so we won't discuss it. As Buffini explains in Sony Classics' press notes for the film, a graphic novel provides filmmakers with a ready-made storyboard. Simmonds' character-rich scenario seems ideal for the gimlet eye of Frears (*The Queen*, *Dirty Pretty Things*, *The Grifters*, *Prick Up Your Ears*), a reveler in the ebb and flow of social inequality.

The setting is a writers' retreat called Stonefield, nestled in the romantic Dorset countryside in the Southwest of England, just outside the village of Ewedown. It's one of those places where writers (or wannabes) pay good money (or else use their grants) to stay in a quiet, comfortable place and have their everyday needs catered to, so they can get on with their work. Or not, as the case may be. For every published author are a handful of magical-realist wannabe creators waiting for their juices to start flowing. A more fertile field for arch cultural satire one could not hope to find.

The proprietors of Stonefield are Beth Hardiment (played by **Tamsin Greig**) and her husband Nicholas (**Roger Allam**), author of a best-selling series of detective novels and a randy old goat. It's Beth who actually owns the land, but she's content to be a den mother playing second fiddle to the celebrated Nicholas, dutifully baking cream buns and sumptuous meals for the household, keeping her husband's accounts, and constantly fretting about his fidelity. As well she should. Their star boarder is an American academic named Glen McCreavy (**Bill Camp**), a doughy-bodied mustache bed of a man who must outlast his keen instinct for interpersonal intrigue behind an enthusiasm for baked goods.

In such stories it's always the newcomers/day-trippers vs. the townies/locals. Helping Beth run the farm is Andy Cobb (actor **Luke Evans**), a rugged young handyman who might have stepped off the cover of an Eddie Bauer catalog. In any ordinary scenario Andy would be the local stud, shagging writers right and left, but here he's a down-on-his-luck rustic pining for his former ancestral home, now occupied by the eponymous Tamara. Then there are two village teenage girls, the brash Jody (**Jessica Barden**) and her meek follower Casey (**Charlotte Christie**), bored out of their minds, who have nothing better to do but hang out in a bus shelter and throw eggs at passing cars.

Tamara Drewe

Directed by Stephen Frears. With Gemma Arterton and Dominic Cooper. Opens Friday.

My Dog Tulip

Directed by Paul and Sandra Fierlinger. With the voice of Christopher Plummer. Opens Friday.

Tamara herself (**Gemma Arterton**, fresh from twin turkeys *Prince of Persia* and *The Disappearance of Alice Creed*) is a bit of all right, as long as we don't delve too deeply. A gorgeous former local girl with a recent nose job and a propensity for cutoffs, she has moved back to the village, part time, to take over her late mother's property, which used to belong to Andy's family. These days Tamara writes a gossip column for a London newspaper and has started dating one of her items, rock drummer Ben Sergeant (**Dominic Cooper**), a moronic brat with eye makeup and a frisky dog. Once Jody and Casey learn that their idol Ben is visiting the village, they camp out nearby to catch a glimpse of him, projecting carnal adventures all the way. The devious Nicholas, it emerges, once had a fling with Tamara, and Andy still fancies her from their schooldays romance. With all these hormones, pheromones, and testosterone heating up to a boil, we're prepared for a genteel Thomas Hardy orgy. Even the cows seem sexually agitated.

Director Frears knows how to have cruel fun with characters like these. Against the luxurious background of sun-dappled fields, Tamara is the cynosure of all eyes. It would have been nice to read a bit more of her writing, but she certainly fits the bill as the enigmatic Eustacia Vye-style temptress around whom the world revolves. Or does it? Similar strong cases could be made for long-suffering Beth, queen of den life takes, or young Jody, with her brand name fantasies and contempt for her rival "Plastic" — Jody's nickname for Tamara, on account of the plastic surgery. Congrats all around, but especially to Simmonds and Frears.

Tamara Drewe is packed with animals — cattle, geese, sheep, two-legged rats — but we don't really get to know any of them as well as we do ***My Dog Tulip***. In keeping with the English-lit theme of this week's review, this obliquely charming animated character study by the artistic team of **Paul and Sandra Fierlinger** is adapted from a memoir by London writer **J.R. Ackerley** (1896-1967) about his stormy, passionate relationship with an Alsatian bitch.

Solitary gay man Ackerley, characterized by the voice of **Christopher Plummer**, adopts his "ideal friend" because, as he notes, "Unable to love each other, the English turn naturally to dogs." It's not all long walks in the park and cozy nights around the hearth. Whereas Ms. Simmonds kept her depictions of sheep and goats rutting in the background, Ackerley and the Fierlingers take us up close and personal with Tulip's bodily functions and her master's tenacious attempts to "marry" her to various sires. Much time is spent introducing the fickle, highly strung dog and her anxious master to new acquaintances like Capt. Pugh and Mr. Blandings and their mutts. Tulip eventually produces eight puppies, all given away. We get the full slobber.

And yet the narrative proceeds gracefully thanks to the Fierlingers' beautiful artwork — line drawings filled in with watercolors, all accomplished digitally — and the vocal performances of Plummer, the late **Lynn Redgrave**, and **Isabella Rossellini**. The drawings mesh wonderfully with Ackerley's saturnine prose. Tulip and J.R. were meant for each other. He writes: "She offered me what I had never found in my life with humans: constant, single-hearted, incorruptible, uncritical devotion, which it is the nature of dogs to offer." Amen. Pass the Milk Bones. ●

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/p/animalfarm

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrew Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com.

OPENING

Gerrymandering Everybody has gone on record as hating it, even Arnold Schwarzenegger... [illegible]

the case of an Iowa man who was elected to his city council with two votes, he won the nomination, but his wife and his friend wrote him in. Filmmakers have the power. (77 min.) (K.V.)

Jackass 3D Johnny Knoxville and his gang of gluttons for punishment return in the third iteration of the stunt series. [illegible]

My Dog Tulip Paul and Sandra Fierlinger's charming, exceptionally well-drawn animated character study, a solitary gay Londoner (voice of Christopher Plummer) adopts an "Alsatian bitch" named Tulip, and his life [illegible]

[illegible] J.R. adopted Tulip's [illegible] It's a love story. Also with the voices of the late Lynn Redgrave and Isabella Rossellini. (83 min.) (K.V.)

Nowhere Boy Who knew that John Lennon [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com.

[illegible] (98 min.) [illegible]

Red Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren, and Morgan Freeman star as [illegible] Robert Schwentke and adapted by Jon Hoeber and Erich Hoeber from a graphic novel by Warren Ellis and Cully Hamner. [illegible]

ONGOING

Alpha and Omega Computer-animated romantic comedy about two wolves from the opposite ends of the pecking order [illegible] Created by Ben Gluck and Anthony Bell with voices by Justin Long, Hayden Panettiere, Dennis Hopper, Christina Ricci, and Danny Glover. [illegible]

The American We can see [illegible]

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Landmark Albany; **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** = Brenden Concord; **BH** = Cinemark Blackhawk; **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg; **BS** = AMC Bay Street; **CA** = Landmark California; **CAPH** = Cinemark Pleasant Hill; **CE** = Century Eastridge; **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas; **CEPH** = Century Pleasant Hill; **CH** = Century Hilltop; **CHY** = Century Hayward; **CN** = Cinedome Newark; **CRC** = Regal Crow Canyon; **CSC** = Cinelux Space and Science; **CUC** = Century Union City; **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek; **DV** = AMC Deer Valley; **GL** = Grand Lake; **HL** = Regal Hacienda; **BG** = Kar B; **GA** = Galaxy; **GR** = Grand; **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive; **PM** = Landmark Piedmont; **RCC** = Roxie Cinema Center; **RCE** = Rialto Cinemas Elmwood; **RH** = Regal Hacienda; **ST** = Renaissance Theater; **S** = Landmark Shattuck; **UAB** = UA Berkeley; **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WWS** = West Wind Solano.

M&T

Clooney's [illegible]

Anjaana Anjaani Hindi-language romantic comedy [illegible] Directed by Siddharth Anand. [illegible]

Buried [illegible]

Cairo Time [illegible]

Case 39 [illegible]

[illegible] Directed by Christian Alvart [illegible]

Catfish [illegible]

Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore [illegible]

Charlie St. Cloud [illegible]

Despicable Me [illegible]

[illegible]

Devil [illegible]

Dinner for Schmucks [illegible]

[illegible]

Easy A [illegible]

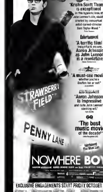
Eat Pray Love [illegible]

Enthiran [illegible]

Enter the Void [illegible]

The Expendables [illegible]

The Girl Who Played With Fire [illegible]


The Untold Story Of John Lennon And The Creation Of The Beatles

Rolling Stone
"Kristin Scott Thomas is exceptional in this hypnotic look at John Lennon's life, vividly created by conceptual artist-turned-director Sam Taylor-Wood."

Entertainment
"A terrific film! Insightful & moving. Aaron Johnson as John Lennon is a revelation."

"A must-see movie, whether you're a Beatles fan or not!"

"Aaron Johnson is impressive and nails John Lennon's slashing wit."

GQ
"The best music movie of the decade!"

NOWHERE BOY

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS START FRIDAY OCTOBER 15
STRAWBERRY FIELD
PENNY LANE

"ABSORBING, GRITTY AND TOTALLY ENGROSSING. DON'T MISS IT!"

ROBERT DE NIRO
EDWARD NORTON
STONE
MILLA JOVOVICH

"A SUPERBLY CRAFTED, smartly acted, suspense-filled THRILLER."

"POWERFUL and PROVOCATIVE"

"DEAD-ON lead PERFORMANCES from Robert DeNiro and Edward Norton."

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HIDEAWAY
(LE REFUGE)

STARTS FRIDAY OCTOBER 15TH

of Sweden's avenging [illegible] hacker/crime fighter Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace), self-[illegible] [illegible] on Lisbeth's [illegible], as she and [illegible] Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist) [illegible] to stop an international sex trafficker (Georgi Staykov) and his giant albino bodyguard [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] about Fröberg, majestic the late Stieg Larsson's mega-popular quartet of novels. [illegible] plenty of [illegible] but wisely concentrate on Lisbeth's [illegible]. This not pretty pursuit [illegible] turns story [illegible] For [illegible]. Also with Lena Endre and directed [illegible]. 129 min. (KV) BC

Going the Distance Two lovers in love. He's a standard NYC record label drone (Justin Long). She's a [illegible] 31-year-old journalism grad student [illegible] working a gig with a major newsletter (Drew Barrymore). What are they doing with each other? And what are we doing watching this [illegible] physically nauseating [illegible] from hell? The lack of [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] language, is staggering. Blame all of this [illegible] and director [illegible] (American Teen). Quick question: Why is it that Long always sounds like he's selling something? Keep your distance. (102 min.) (KV) BC

Heartbreaker (*L'Arnacoeur*) French [illegible] about a [illegible] [illegible] (Romain Duris) [illegible] brother [illegible]. Directed by Pascal Chaumeil and written by [illegible] and [illegible]. (KV) [illegible]

Howl James Franco's incandescent performance as the young Allen Ginsberg is only one of the couple [illegible] to Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's dramatic [illegible] of the controversy surrounding Ginsberg's [illegible] monumental poem — published in 1956 and put on trial for obscenity in San Francisco, of all [illegible] (*Pineapple Express*, [illegible]) [illegible] Ginsberg as the [illegible], a [illegible] poet railing against the [illegible]. [illegible] of all are [illegible] [illegible] from the epic poem itself. On hand as Ginsberg's [illegible] and [illegible] are [illegible] Strathairn, Jeff Daniels, Jon Hamm, and Mary-Louise Parker. [illegible] (*The Times of Harvey Milk*) [illegible] Ginsberg as a gay rights icon, but [illegible] world of [illegible] in his poetic [illegible] and the film [illegible] a great big [illegible] of it. Exec-produced by Gus Van Sant. (90 min.) (KV) [illegible]

Inception [illegible] Leonardo DiCaprio and his crew of [illegible] the subconscious minds of their [illegible] while they sleep in order to plant [illegible]. [illegible] Which gives writer-director Christopher Nolan an excuse to [illegible] of expensive [illegible] (Ellen Page, [illegible], Michael Caine, Cillian Murphy, and [illegible] plot [illegible] But if [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] out with [illegible] Nolan's [illegible] [illegible] he [illegible] big budget. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. One way to [illegible] fun with this [illegible] [illegible] while watching [illegible] yourself. Try it. You'll [illegible]. Co-starring Ken Watanabe, Tom Berenger, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt. (148 min.) (KV) [illegible]

It's Kind of a Funny Story Dying is easy but making [illegible] hard, as the saying goes. [illegible] Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, the writing and directing team who made *Half Nelson* (2006) and *Sugar* (2008), [illegible] character [illegible] this [illegible] by putting together [illegible] character actors (Viola Davis, Jeremy Davies, Adrian Martinez) and [illegible] [illegible] (Zach Galifianakis, Jim Gaffigan, Aasif Mandvi). A depressed high schooler (Keir Gilchrist) naively checks himself into a psychiatric ward and then [illegible] he [illegible] stay five days for observation; [illegible] is a [illegible] coming-of-age story, but the [illegible] keeps it from [illegible] The [illegible] that [illegible] between [illegible] where most of the [illegible] place. (101 min.) [illegible] CA, PM, [illegible]

The Kids Are All Right Lisa Cholodenko [illegible] about a sophisticated [illegible], the [illegible] and [illegible] what happens to a [illegible] couple (Annette Bening, Julianne Moore) when the [illegible] of their teenagers (Mark Ruffalo) shows up and starts [illegible] hearts. [illegible] Lisa Cholodenko [illegible] Canyon, High Art) and [illegible] Stuart Blumberg have a keen eye for the details of contemporary California life, and the three lead performances take on [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] laughs. [illegible] is especially fine as [illegible] who [illegible] a Volvo wagon and [illegible]. (104 min.) (KV) [illegible] CA

Last Train Home It's Chinese New Year, 2006, and [illegible] migration in human history is happening: [illegible] factory and farm workers [illegible] [illegible] their home [illegible] for the [illegible] from all over China. Chinese-Canadian [illegible] Lixin Fan [illegible] [illegible] and the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] and we learn a lot about what [illegible] the world go around. [illegible] the [illegible]: "[illegible] are [illegible] and tall as [illegible] [illegible] fascinating for both of

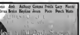
Richard anthropology (87 min.) (KV) [illegible]

Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole A computer-animated [illegible] film focusing on an owl's adventures in a mythical kingdom. Written by John Orloff and John Collee based on the book series *Guardians of Ga'Hoole* by Kathryn Lasky; directed by Zack Snyder; voices by Jim Sturgess, Geoffrey Rush, Anthony LaPaglia, [illegible] and Helen Mirren. BC [illegible] CPH CH DUC CN BH CDC GL RH [illegible]

Let Me In Surprise: This Hollywood remake of Tomas Alfredson and John Ajvide Lindqvist's majestic vampire [illegible] *Let the Right One In* is neither dumbed-down nor especially softened up. In fact, it stands by itself as a worthy addition to the [illegible] of the vampire. As adapted and directed by TV [illegible] Matt Reeves, the relationship between an androgynous twelve-year-old [illegible] Owen (Kodi Smit-McPhee) and Abby, the equally lonely girl who moves into the apartment [illegible] (Chloë Grace Moretz from *Kick-Ass*), has all the [illegible] complexity and [illegible] of the original. As a [illegible] character actors Richard Jenkins and Elias Koteas [illegible] Abby's "father" and the cop [illegible] detective investigating those mysterious, grisly murders suddenly spooking the [illegible] of snowy Los Alamos, New Mexico. Put out the welcome mat. (115 min.) (KV) BC CH CEPH CH DUC S RH A

Life as We Know It Thoroughly [illegible] widely [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel as [illegible] the [illegible] couple who "inherit" a baby girl when her parents die. But that's no reason to [illegible] everything and [illegible] [illegible] jokes. [illegible] by [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] directed by Greg Berlanti. (112 min.) (KV) BC [illegible]

Machete Outrageously entertaining, directed by Robert Rodriguez and Ethan Maniquis [illegible] and as a [illegible] political [illegible] Renegade [illegible] (Danny Trejo) [illegible] to Texas and [illegible] in the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a cynical politician (Robert De Niro), a right-wing [illegible] (Don Johnson), a [illegible] (Steven Seagal), and an ICE agent (Jessica Alba) with doubts about her [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible]



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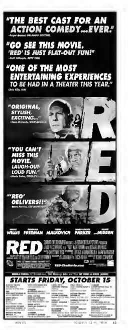

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"'RED' DELIVERS!!"
-[illegible] Perrins, CTV MONTREAL

WILLIS FREEMAN MALKOVICH PARKER ...MIRREN

RED

RED-TheMovie.com

STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

[illegible]

M&T

[illegible]

Mao's Last Dancer [illegible]

My Soul to Take [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt [illegible]

Never Let Me Go [illegible]

Salt [illegible]

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World [illegible]

Secretariat [illegible]

The Social Network [illegible]

Stone [illegible]

To Be an Astronaut [illegible]

The Town [illegible]

Toy Story 3 [illegible]

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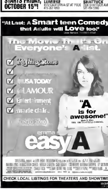
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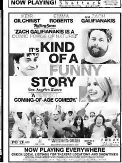
SONY


KEIR GILCHRIST EMMA ROBERTS and ZACH GALIFIANAKIS

Rolling Stone "ZACH GALIFIANAKIS IS A COMIC FORCE OF NATURE!"

IT'S KIND OF A FUNNY STORY

Los Angeles Times "A [illegible] COMING-OF-AGE COMEDY."

PG-13

NOW PLAYING EVERYWHERE

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATRE LOCATIONS AND SHOWTIMES

pink stuffed teddy bear that smells like strawberry (Ned Beatty). [illegible] new additions to the animated toy troupe: Barbie and Ken, of course, hopelessly lost in the '70s (Jodi Benson and [illegible]). It's impossible to imagine anyone who's [illegible] enough [illegible] childhood feeling [illegible] — no matter how dubious [illegible] may seem at times. [illegible] Toy Story 3 is every bit as [illegible] as Up. (103 min.) (K.V.)RV

Vampires Suck [illegible]

Waiting for Superman Davis Guggenheim [illegible] why American public education is a mess. The writer-director of An Inconvenient Truth employs famous talking heads like Bill Gates, Washington DC schools chief Michelle Rhee, and education wonks Geoffrey Canada to spill the beans about teachers' unions (they're a major part of the problem), [illegible] charter schools, and other tales [illegible]. [illegible] documentary [illegible] The Cove. (102 min.) (K.V.) (CAPH, CA, PM)

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps Oliver Stone waited 23 years to make the sequel to his landmark stock drama [illegible] Wall Street. Why? [illegible] Michael Douglas [illegible] his role as financial reptile Gordon Gekko [illegible] "Greed is good" [illegible] Shia LaBeouf [illegible] young investment [illegible] engaged to marry Gekko's estranged daughter (Carey Mulligan) who [illegible] with the old man to get revenge on an evil [illegible] financial (Josh Brolin). Along the way, director Stone — with the help of writers [illegible] Allan Loeb, and Stephen Schiff — skewers the usual business-world [illegible] with [illegible]. [illegible] it's been done before [illegible] by [illegible] documentarians as well as by Stone himself. [illegible] Susan Sarandon [illegible] (133 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

You Again Family comedy [illegible] of high-school rivals soon to [illegible] by marriage. Written by [illegible], directed by Andy Fickman, and starring Kristen Bell, Jamie Lee Curtis, Sigourney Weaver, [illegible], Betty White, and Kristin Chenoweth. [illegible]

You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger Woody Allen's [illegible] Match Point and Cassandra's Dream [illegible] comedy [illegible] Anthony Hopkins' [illegible] Naomi Watts as her daughter, Josh Brolin as the [illegible] writer husband, and Freida Pinto (Slumdog Millionaire) as the woman across the courtyard. A deceptively light [illegible]. Also with Antonio Banderas and Ewan Bremner. (98 min.) (K.V.)(CA)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

Chimes at Midnight (113 min. 1966). Shakespeare on Screen (PFA, 7:00)

Home (134 min. 1981). Waterfront Films (Jack London [illegible], sundown)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

Bellissima (114 min. 1951). Days of Glory: Revisiting Italian Neorealism (PFA, 6:30)

[illegible] (95 min. 1953). Days of Glory: Revisiting Italian Neorealism (PFA, 8:50)

[illegible] International Children's Film Festival. Opening reception followed by short film "Lost and Found" and feature [illegible]. Filmmakers in person (Theatre [illegible], Moraga, 7:00)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Home Movie Day Screening (total running time 180 min.). A collection of shorts. [illegible] person (PFA, 4:00)

[illegible] (total running time 95 min., 1988-99). Filmmakers George Kuchar, [illegible], and Anne McGuire in person. Radical Light: Alternative Film and Video in the San Francisco Bay Area (PFA, 6:30)

[illegible] (total running time 95 min. 1971). Adults only. [illegible] by scholar [illegible] by filmmaker [illegible] in person. Radical Light: Alternative Film and Video in the San Francisco Bay Area (PFA, 8:30)

[illegible] International Children's Film Festival. [illegible] films: [illegible] Sean's Not So Excellent Adventure and Diary of a Wimpy Kid, awards ceremony, closing reception, and more (Theatre [illegible], Moraga, 11:00 a.m.)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

[illegible] (110 min. 1996). Shakespeare on Screen (PFA, 4:00)

Procession of the [illegible] (total running time 100 min. 1972-75). Filmmakers in person. Live video synthesis performance by Skip Sweeney [illegible], and Robert Pacelli. Radical Light: Alternative Film and Video in the San Francisco Bay Area (PFA, 6:30)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

1969-79 (total running time 97 min. 1970-79). Radical Light: Alternative Film and Video in the San Francisco Bay Area (PFA, 7:30)

The [illegible] [illegible] (Memorial Hall, [illegible], 7:30) ●

GRAND LAKE THEATRE
[illegible]
BEST EAST BAY THEATER
[illegible]

Rocky Horror returns
Saturday October 16th at Midnight!

LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE in 3D (PG)
FRI-SAT-SUN 12:15 2:15 4:15
MON-THUR 4:15

THE TOWN (R)
FRI-SAT 6:30, 9:30 SUN-THURS 6:30, 9:30

RED (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN 12:00 2:30 5:00, 7:30 10:00
MON-THUR 5:00 7:30 10:00

JACKASS 3D (R)
FRI-SAT-SUN 11:45 1:45 3:45, 6:00 8:15, 10:20
MON-THUR 3:45 6:00 8:15, 10:20

SECRETARIAT (PG)
FRI-SAT-SUN 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
MON-THUR 4:00 7:00 9:45

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Michael Douglas [illegible]
WALL STREET
MONEY NEVER SLEEPS
(3:15) 6:15 9:15 PG-13
12:15pm Bargain Show Sat & Sun Also!

Cerrito Midnights presents
WEIRD SCIENCE
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STRANGE GEOGRAPHY

An indie trio succeeds by virtue of its composition process and an ethereal lead singer

By Angela Kilduff

Geographer

Inspiration comes in weird places, like the windowless Tenderloin practice pad where members of San Francisco indie band **Geographer** run through their current set list. Their songs are idiosyncratic and textured, often beginning with a single keyboard melody and building to a full orchestra. "Kites" begins that way. A simple tune acts like a scaffold for **Mike Deni**'s ethereal vocals. Then the beat kicks in, bass heavy and percussive, like something out of early-Nineties hip hop, and the other instruments rush in: electric cello, drums, samplers, synthesizers. Sounds fill the room, seep through crannies, and drift dream-like down to the sidewalk below.

That may seem like an insular process. But there's no question that Deni and fellow musicians **Nathan Blaz** and **Brian Ostreicher** have found a composition style that works. Combining synthesized beats, orchestral asides, and haunting vocals, they've garnered comparisons to **Radiohead** and **The Postal Service**. Geographer's EP *Animal Shapes* came out on **Tricycle Records** in March and was re-released in August. It's a decidedly dancey follow-up to *Innocent Ghosts*, the band's folky 2008 debut. The well-released record earned the band a nod from Spin.com, which named Geographer one of "Three Undiscovered Bands You Need to See Now."

You might chalk it up to a solid musical pedigree. All three members picked up instruments at an early age. They played in bands in high school, and Deni wrote songs as far back as middle school. Drummer Ostreicher and cellist Blaz met as students at **Berklee College of Music**. They collaborated on projects before Geographer, and they have current side projects, as well. Ostreicher has a solo project called **omnisound**, and Blaz plays cello in **Honeycomb** with Kacey Johansing. She used to be part of Geographer, too, and once she left, the other three members moved in a more electronic direction. It seems promising.

At a recent show before an absinthe-sipping audience at **The Academy of Sciences**, Geographer got the museum-going crowd to move. The stage was outside against a glass wall, and people wandered through a Galapagos exhibit behind them. They opened with synth-heavy "Verona" from *Animal Shapes* and followed with "Can't You Wait," the first track from *Innocent Ghosts*. Their live performance is all about focus and precision. They talked to the audience very little during the seven-song set, and when his voice hit higher registers, Deni sang with his eyes closed. Blaz tucked his long hair behind one ear and his bow bounced quickly across the cello's strings. The crowd continued to grow as they played, and between songs, a woman shouted "Aquarium!" like someone might yell "Free Bird."

Geographer makes indie pop that's personal and steeped in emotion. That comes across even when the lyrics are difficult to make out. The band members say they craft their songs in the studio without regard for how they'll perform them live. "After the recording is done, we'll get together and practice and say, 'Okay, who's got enough arms or feet for this?'" Deni said. This can mean they'll have to make an in-studio edit, and sometimes they find a solution they like better than the recorded version. They get excited just talking about the process, and the results obviously translate well onstage. At Academy of Sciences, they managed to be crowd pleasers without actually engaging the audience.

It shouldn't have surprised anyone at that show that we were actually witnessing a catharsis of sorts. *Innocent Ghosts* was born out of a lot of personal pain. When Deni's father and sister passed away unexpectedly, he dealt with it by making music. He does most of Geographer's songwriting. "I need to express myself in that way, and it's awesome that people like to listen to it," he said. "It's just the greatest coincidence — I would be doing this stuff no matter what." When he's not writing, he works as a special education preschool teacher's assistant.

The band has enjoyed a good year. Geographer opened for **Atlas Sound** at the **Great American Music Hall** in February and played **Live 105's BFD** in June. Online sales picked up in March when the band was featured by **iTunes**, and *Animal Shapes* was listed as a top ten pick by iTunes staff. They toured the East Coast this summer and drew a big crowd in NYC at a show with label mates **Fronos**. In September, "Kites" aired on the premiere of **MTV** reality show *The Buried Life*.

With all that momentum, Geographer is hard at work on its next album. After three years of making music together, the band members say they gained a better understanding of both production and performance. You'd know that just by looking at their stage setup. Deni sings and alternates between a guitar, bass, synthesizers, a laptop, and two tiers of keyboards. Blaz plays the electric cello with laptop in easy reach and Ostreicher covers drums and backup vocals. All together, it makes for an impressive tangle of cords. "Nowadays we try to play gigs with sound guys," said Ostreicher.

Show Details

Geographer plays at Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Friday, Oct. 15. 10 p.m. $10-$12. BottomoftheHill.com

As their next album takes shape, the songwriting process is starting to shift. Deni still writes songs, but some are coming together as they jam. When it comes to the synth side of their sound, they are striving for a polished feel with a few rough edges because some of their favorite music is better because of its imperfections. "Especially with electronics, it's really easy to dial things in perfectly," Blaz said. "It loses some personality."

Deni added, "We're making a very conscious effort to run things through the mud and the dirt a little bit more."

At practice, Deni can't help but dance a little, just like he did during the Academy of Sciences show. Their music is easy to get lost in by design, he said. "I mean that's what you go for in every experience: to have everything else melt away." ■

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/geographer

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

TASTE OF HONEY

The Bitter Honeys bring their girl-group concept to the Rickshaw

By Rachel Swan

It was a strange night at San Francisco's **Rickshaw Stop**. Conversations in the women's bathroom revolved around the Giants. Conversations on the dance floor centered on menstruation. And the lineup was odd to boot: Los Angeles-based Afrobeat band **Fool's Gold**, supported by groove-rock opener **The Soft White Sixties**. Sandwiched in between them was a band whose members donned vintage suits and matching sequined dresses. Part girl-group, part surf rock, part soul revival, **The Bitter Honeys** represented a nostalgia-based trend that's taken hold nationally and percolated into the Bay Area music scene. Like the similarly themed **Hot Toddies**, they combine salty, contemporary lyrics with a familiar template — done well enough to equal or surpass their antecedents. The Bitter Honeys have it down pat. They've already completed a mini West Coast tour and landed a spate of good billings, less than a year since the group's inception.

Friday's gig at the Rickshaw Stop was the Honeys' ninth show to date. The five band members coalesced the way rock musicians did back in the Sixties and Seventies. They were all friends of friends who knew each other from around the way. They went to the same shows and played in the same garages. They all collected obscure records and fetishized old, rare stuff. Even their hairstyles seemed apropos: guitarist **Ryan Beebe** sports muttonchops, singer **Erica Johnson** and bassist **Sara Gambina-Belrap** wear high, teased 'dos that could almost be baby beehives. When the band members came together with the idea of making a five-piece throwback outfit, they already had the accoutrements in place.

Thus, they attracted a medium-sized crowd to the dance floor on Friday. The Honeys kicked their set off with an original called "Act Right," which required Sara, Erica, and lead singer **Cris Araujo** to split duties on some three-part harmony choruses while drummer **Mouse Menough** hit a solid backbeat and **Beebe** ground away at his axe. The setup was remarkably ascetic for a soul band: guitar, bass, drums, two shakers, voice. Even the harmonies were spare, rarely straying beyond a major third — except on an extraordinary **Samantha Jones** cover called "Today Without You." Johnson said they'd ultimately like to add horns and keyboards, creating a much fatter rhythm section.

For now, though, the small group seems a little more realistic. If nothing else, it allows for a lot of tacit information exchange onstage. The three singers move together in a way that seems choreographed, and Johnson says that at this point "it's kind of a 'band intuition' thing." They also know how to thwart minor disasters. After the first song, Beebe gestured frantically to the sound guy. "More vocals!" someone shouted in the audience. Johnson smiled accommodatingly. "Could we have a little more guitar in this monitor?" she asked, pointing stage-right to Beebe. "And a little more vocal in that monitor?" From an audience standpoint, it was hard to notice the difference. But Beebe was appeased.

The Bitter Honeys

Araujo is the Bitter Honeys' true secret weapon. Whereas Johnson and Gambina-Belrap sound pretty and airy, she's the belter in the group. She's the only one who can truly manhandle a ballad like "Can't Let Go," which requires a genuine mix of anger, obsession, and regret. Best known for former roles in **Bart Davenport Band** and **Outline Kit**, she appears to be entirely self-made. She also designs the group's apparel. Johnson and Gambina-Belrap aren't quite as strong — they falter a little on the harmonies for "Teenage Years" — but they fit the group's image quite well. And having a female bass player increases the Honeys' appeal by a factor of six.

Which explains why they went over as well at the Rickshaw, even faced with a rather non-participatory crowd. "How many people have ever been in love?" Johnson asked to introduce "Can't Let Go." Folks gazed back at her perplexedly. One guy raised his hand. "This guy here?" Johnson asked. "He's the only one who's ever been in love? The rest of you are too cool?" Apparently, she'd hit the mark. There was a decidedly clear division between the fans who had come specifically for Bitter Honeys and the ones who had come for headliner Fool's Gold. Overall, the Honeys' fan base was sleeker. The guys were skinnier. The girls had a more retro fashion sense. The two couples that danced knew how to do an authentic mashed potato. In contrast to their world music counterparts, they were quieter, more bemused, less likely to heckle the band or start a dialogue between songs.

And yet, by time the Bitter Honeys reached their penultimate tune — an **Exciters** tribute called "He's Got the Power" — they'd clearly garnered a few more fans. The Honeys are a weird group. They're more sincere and less self-consciously clever than some of their peers in the indie scene, but still cheeky in their own way. They sang a lot of traditional love ballads, mixed with a song about social paranoia ("I'm Afraid They're All Talking About Me") and a couple tunes about co-dependent relationships. At this point, the band still incorporates a lot of covers, but members try to steer clear of the obvious. Johnson says that, ultimately, they'd like to do all original material.

The crowd applauded heartily on Friday even as the lights went up and world music cued on the stereo. Talk in the women's bathroom line turned to "those surprisingly good openers." For a relatively unknown indie band, it was an auspicious beginning. ●

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OUTRÉ APPEAL

Rap flumes, resolute soul artists, and the return of acoustic guitars

Bilal

Airtight's Revenge

Philly soul singer **Bilal Sayeed Oliver** is widely regarded by jazz musicians as the best young male vocalist in the world. At 31 he also has the unique distinction of being modeling-school handsome. So why haven't you heard of him? One possible explanation is his bizarre fallout with **Interscope Records** after the label shelved his 2006 album *Love for Sale*. Bilal went all the way indie, became a cult star, and stopped reigning in the powers of his own imagination. He toured with some big names but never achieved the status of an **Dwele** or **Donell Jones**. He produced most of the tracks on his current album *Airtight's Revenge* with co-conspirator **Steve McKie**, and incorporated live instrumentation. For a soul album it's pretty outré. It's also wonderful.

Like many Bilal products, *Airtight's Revenge* sounds like an agglomeration of muses, rather than a package of hits. The beats are busy and twitchy. The harmonies come in thick layers. Bilal's voice is a rich, irrepressible, high-pitched vibrato that bends and stretches over several octaves. It can make a minimalist track like "The Dollar" sound like blues. "All Matter," which Bilal introduced two years ago on a Robert Glasper album, appears here in its advanced form. Reverb and echo help create atmosphere, as Bilal wails excitedly over an understated three-chord melody. "Levels" combines slow-bellied vocals with an up-tempo beat. Many songs have long, windy introductions and melodies that require the singer to modulate his voice. "Move On" has a jokey nod to **New Edition**.

Airtight's Revenge isn't flawless, but it shows that Bilal can oversee his own production process. And it's the most adventurous soul release in recent memory. (Plug Research)

—*Rachel Swan*

At Oakland Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero) Fri. & Sat. Oct. 22-23. 8 & 10 p.m. $20-$30. Yoshis.com

Gucci Mane

The Appeal: Georgia's Most Wanted

In the last two years, **Gucci Mane** has ascended to elite status via a flurry of verses, freestyles, and mixtapes. People are downloading these things for good reason. Yeah, he's got some interesting quirks, like five-dollar words and *Simpsons* references. But that wouldn't matter if he weren't demonstrably entertaining. Gucci's voice is infectious, his flow hypnotic. Whereas a deadpan weirdo like **Cam'ron** invariably sounds bored, Gucci makes for fun listening because he's clearly having fun himself. If only his producers could keep pace.

The 30-year-old rapper is now a major star big enough to secure pricey collaborations with **The Neptunes** and **Jim Jonsin** — popular, predictable artists whose complacency seems to have rubbed off on Gucci. *The Appeal: Georgia's Most Wanted* offers few surprises. Many of the tracks, with their swooshing synths and throbbing 808s, feel indistinguishable from one another. The album threatens to fall apart entirely during its slow, sagging second half, with tracks like "Haterade" dragging along at a snail's pace.

Yet Gucci manages to preserve *The Appeal*'s entertainment value through the sheer magnetism of his voice. His effortlessly gliding delivery is such a treat to hear that even the silky-shirted **Ray J** duet "Remember When" proves effective. And when he's equipped with the right beat (Swizz Beatz turns in a couple of stunners on "Gucci Time" and "It's Alive"), it's mayhem. (Asylum Records)

—*M.T. Richards*

Marc Ribot

Silent Movies

Various Artists

Imaginational Anthem Volume 4: New Possibilities

Is **Marc Ribot** the most protean multipurpose guitarist of our time? Do Hollywood studios dump crap into multiplexes? Ribot has graced recordings and touring bands of **Tom Waits**, **Elvis Costello**, **John Zorn**, **Allen Toussaint**, and The Black Keys. He can rock, swing, and make gleefully stimulating noises with aplomb. *Silent Movies* is Ribot in a predominately acoustic context, playing compositions for assorted films. "The Kid" (written to accompany a **Charlie Chaplin** flick of the same name) is elegantly both pensive and whimsical, with distant overtones of **J.S. Bach** and Spanish music. The loping "Fat Man Blues" features chilling, razor-sharp country blues motifs over an insistent, rolling rhythm. The Americana-flavored "Radar" has sparse, brittle, plaintive electric chords. The dissonant, virtually industrial "Postcard From NY" is the city itself crying its own blues. Ribot has élan to spare, but plays only the most essential notes. (Pi Recordings)

SILENT MOVIES

Imaginational Anthem Volume 4 is the latest in a series spotlighting contemporary acoustic guitarists of varying backgrounds, with explorations of Anglo-American folk and "American Primitive" styles the unifying aspect. Highlights include **William Tyler** (of **Silver Jews**), who contributes a briskly jaunty idyll, "Between Radiance and Sunrise," Aaron Sheppard's congenial, autumnal "We Meet On The Level," and C. Joynes' Elizabethan-flavored "Jenny Steel." Both these sets share two elusive qualities — brilliance and timelessness. (Tompkins Square)

— *Mark Keresman*

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LOCAL LICKS

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India & Africa

Anthony Brown's Asian American Orchestra

India & Africa

A byproduct of **Anthony Brown's** research for a new book about Coltrane, *India & Africa* is a compelling project in its own right. It features expansive drum-driven arrangements of eleven tunes (including "Afro Blue") and one Brown original ("Percussion Discussion"). All recorded live at **Yoshi's**, so you hear audience members holler. (Water Baby)

At DeYoung Museum (50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco) Sun., Oct. 24, 2 p.m. Free.

Kelly Love Jones

Triumphant

Singer-songwriter Kelly Love Jones can affect just about any accent, as long as it has indie cachet. She raps in tones redolent of Kingston, Jamaica — and later of Jamaica, Queens — all the while accompanying herself on guitar. Stylistically, *Triumphant* is mostly a reggae and rock-steady album, its lyrics basted with moral messages. Jones delivers all of them with gusto. (Honor Music)

Ike Levin & Joel Futterman

Dialogues and Connections

Structured as conversations between two instruments, this ballsy album is built on the principle of intense listening. Saxophonist Ike Levin and pianist Joel Futterman devote all their musical energies to "outside" free jazz that's all blast and bombast. No titles, no standards, no conventional chord changes, no time signatures, no consonance. The blues run at the end of "Conversation One Part One" is stunning. (Charles Lester Music)

Zion-I

Atomic Clock

Oakland's favorite backpacker duo has entered its experimental phase: dense, heavily orchestrated tracks, obscure samples, world music influences, bizarre sound combinations. Producer Amp Live is getting a bit cluttered, but his new beats show a lot of curiosity about music. Highlights are the tabla break on "Girls," the Christopher Wallace reference on "Polarity," and the *Ba ba-ba beee-ba* vocal loop on "Infatuation." (Gold Dust Media)

At Slim's (333 11th St., San Francisco) on Nov. 20-21. 9 p.m. $20-$23.

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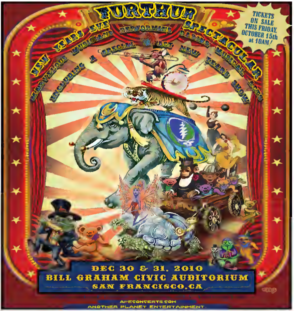
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Next Level Noise Pop

In its fourth year Treasure Island consolidates its reputation as a "boutique" fest.

The National plays Treasure Island Fest on Sunday

The best festivals come at the end of summer. There's **Outside Lands**, the two-day blowout event of the year, followed by **Hardly Strictly Bluegrass** in October. Then comes **Treasure Island Music Festival**, which threatens to eclipse both the others in terms of programming and hipster cred. Now in its fourth year, the festival has a pretty foolproof format. Saturday is dance and electronica day. Sunday is geared toward indie rock. The headliners are always plucked from a pool of well-established bands who haven't played the Bay Area in a while. Last year's main draw was **The Flaming Lips**. This year it's **Belle & Sebastian**, celebrating the release of their new album *Write About Love*, along with glammy disco act **LCD Soundsystem**. Yet it's not the A-listers alone who account for Treasure Island's popularity. It's the broader package.

Founders **Jordan Kurland** and **Kevin Arnold** are also the brains behind **Noise Pop**, a San Francisco festival that Arnold launched in 1993. It started as a one-nighter with just a handful of bands, and morphed into a week-long affair with shows held simultaneously throughout the city. Noise Pop succeeded by virtue of imagination. Its founders highlighted local acts, but they weren't parochially interested in the Bay Area scene. Thus Noise Pop early expanded to include DJs, hip-hop artists like **Wale**, a film festival component, and bands who were just starting to have a national presence. When Kurland and Arnold decided to filter that idea into a two-day extravaganza, they had the logistical wherewithal to make it work. They chose Treasure Island for its pristine skyline and huge open space. They booked an ambitious lineup, with such acts as **M.I.A.**, **Modest Mouse**, **Built to Spill**, and **Thievery Corporation**. In essence, Treasure Island took the Noise Pop formula to the next level of pop-culture cachet.

"Noise Pop has always been about merging national and international touring bands with local artists," Kurland said. By sticking to that principle, he and Arnold managed to build the festival from scratch every year and keep the shows relatively inexpensive. And they used the same formula for Treasure Island, which is a dual production of Noise Pop and **Another Planet Entertainment**. This year's lineup features locals like **Rogue Wave** and **Maus Haus**, alongside bigger names like **The National**. The headliners were chosen after a long process of head-scratching and arbitration, Kurland said.

It wouldn't be quite accurate to characterize Treasure Island as just a bigger Noise Pop. There are certain hallmarks of a small indie fest that don't translate on a big stage. The ticket price, for one — individual Noise Pop shows rarely exceeded $20, Treasure Island tickets start at $67.50 — or the scruffiness of the bands. That said, Treasure Island has managed to keep its "boutique" sensibility remarkably intact. It might just be the festival of the year.

Treasure Island Music Festival runs Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 16-17, on Treasure Island. Noon, $67.50 for single-day pass; $119.50 for two days. TreasureIslandFestival.com

— Rachel Swan

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EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] blues, rock, & reggae, P.A. w/ mics & drum set provided. [illegible] Art. 6:30 pm, $0

Blues, Folk & Country

Alex Kanin Trio, [illegible] [illegible] Cafe and [illegible] Gallery, 7-8 pm, free

[illegible] solo guitar. Cafe [illegible] Wine Bar, [illegible] & Gallery, 7-8 pm, free

[illegible] Angel: The Legend of Gram Parsons a theatrical Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$22.50

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] The New Parish, 9 pm, $5-$8

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible], 8-10 pm, $5-$8

[illegible] [illegible] Lighthouse, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] The Broken Toys & [illegible] Stone's [illegible] Club, 9 pm, $8

[illegible] Fox Theater, 8 pm, $[illegible]

[illegible] Starry Plough, 9 pm, $8

The [illegible] [illegible] Sports Bar, 10 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] 9 pm, $15, $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Songwriters Unplugged Showcase w/ [illegible] [illegible] San Francisco, 8 pm, $10-$14

Experimental & Avant-Garde

The Experimental Side of the Y2K [illegible] Anniversary International Live Looping Festival w/ [illegible] & [illegible] Gallery, 8 pm, $8-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world. [illegible] of Prince Charming. Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

From Ragtime to Rock and Roll: The Rise of American Popular Music ([illegible]) Presented by SFJAZZ w/ guest [illegible] Community Center of San Francisco, 7 pm, $25

SFJAZZ Hotplate Series: [illegible] Ensemble played music of Carla Bley. [illegible] 9 pm, $5

[illegible] San Francisco-based sextet performs live jazz and blues. Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

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SAT 10/16 9PM $8	FRED ODELL 7 ORANGE ARC JAFAR THORPE
THU 10/21 9PM $8	MOUSY BROWN POCHIT AUDIAFAUNA
FRI 10/22 9PM $8	NINE POUND SHADOW BRAD BROOKS PETER RUDY & THE APOSTLES OF DIRT DAVID STUART
SAT 10/23 9PM $8	THE HEAVY GUILT SHADY MAPLES K I NICHOLAS

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OCTOBER 16 AND 17

2010

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WED. 13TH:
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live salsa & dance lessons

NEW PARTY ALERT!
THURS. 14TH:
"DAMN GINA"
electro · bounce · disco dancing · bass heavy bangs

FRI. 15TH:
JOHN PAYNE & THE HURT FUNK
album release party!

SAT. 16TH:
"MORTIFIED" & THE FREEZE
hip-hop comedy sensation!

SUN. 17TH:
"KING OF KING'S" KHARI KILL
live performance & dj's

TUESDAYS: KARAOKE 8PM SIGN UPS

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PICKS

Sol Fang

Blood Red Shoes

Blood Red Shoes came roaring out of Brighton, England in 2008 with a primal wall of noise, driven by the over-the-top guitar of axe-slinger **Laura-Mary Carter** and the spare, driving rhythms of **Steven Ansell**. With a relentless tour schedule and hit albums, they quickly became *the* band to watch (in primal noise terms, at least). Their just released follow-up, *Fire Like This*, lives up to its name. It's incendiary. More importantly, the band's in-your-face attitude is balanced by a finely honed pop instinct, which makes every track sound like a hit. Blood Red Shoes plays Friday Oct. 15, at the **Rickshaw Stop** (155 Fell, San Francisco) 8:30 p.m., $10. RickshawStop.com — *J. Poet*

Nobunny

Oakland trash-rocker **Nobunny** turned shtick into gold by donning a floppy-eared mask to create his stage persona. But at this point his music is finally eclipsing his cute bunny costume. Like many peers in the local rock scene, Nobunny is part of a loose-knit surf-rock revival. He makes songs that hover on two chords, require all of three instruments to play, and often sound like they were recorded in a trash can or septic tank. Many of them come adorned with patty-cake clap-alongs and doo-wop harmonies. On the song "I Am a Girlfriend," Nobunny even modulates his voice to do a **Joey Ramone**-style oooh-ooh. Nobunny supports the similarly upbeat two-song rock band **The Dickies** this Thursday Oct. 14 at **Uptown Nightclub** (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). **Sharp Objects** and **Eastern Span** also perform. 8 p.m. $12. UptownNightclub.com — *Rachel Swan*

Blood Red Shoes.

The Vaselines

The Vaselines might have ended up as history's dustbin alongside fellow obscure Scottish alt-poppers **Orange Juice** had late **Nirvana** frontman **Kurt Cobain** not plucked them from obscurity. Cobain covered two Vaselines songs, got their entire catalog reissued by **Sub Pop**, and even named daughter **Frances Bean** after the group's **Frances McKee**. So it makes sense that McKee and fellow Vaseline member **Eugene Kelly** would get the band back together to release *Sex With an X*, a long-awaited sophomore effort that only took two decades to make. And while this might invoke cynical notions of a nostalgia-fueled money-grab, the band's dozen new songs stand on their own merit. There's a proper balance of guitar jangle and twee-based harmonizing that reflect the Vaselines' influence on fellow Scots **Belle & Sebastian**. They toss a lot of grit into this sugary mix with the cranky anthem "I Hate the '80s" and the **Mekons**-flavored alt-country stomper "My God's Bigger Than Your God." Cobain's favorite songwriters in the whole world appear at the **Great American Music Hall** (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m., $25. GAMH.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Alex Ross

It's talk rather than music, but when the speaker is *New Yorker* critic **Alex Ross**, and the lecture title is ***Chacona, Lamento, Walking Blues: Bass Lines of Music History***, you can be sure the evening will be worthwhile. Ross' talk, based on a chapter of his new book, *Bass Lines*, will illuminate how music has transformed throughout history. Ross' first book, *The Rest Is Noise*, won the 2007 **National Book Critics Circle Award** for criticism and the 2008 **Guardian First Book Award**. He kicks off Cal Performances' Strictly Speaking series on Thursday, Oct. 14 at **Wheeler Auditorium** (beyond Bancroft Way and Telegraph Ave., UC Berkeley) 8 p.m., $28. 510-642-9988 or CalPerformances.org — *Jason Victor Serinus*

C&C

Rock & Pop

The Acorn w/ Leif Vollebekk & Angel Island: Café du Nord, 8 pm, $12
[illegible] w/ Magic Bullets & The Old Fashioned Way: Rickshaw Stop, 8 pm, $8-$10
The Dickies w/ Nobunny, Sharp Objects (featuring Members of the Briefs), Eastern Span, & special guests: Slim's, 8 pm, $12
Erica Sunshine Lee w/ Cameron Duke & Kelly McFarling: Slim's, 8 pm, $13
[illegible] w/ The Wrong Words: Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $23-$26
Paul [illegible]: The Fillmore, 8 pm, $47.20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible]: [illegible], 9:30 pm, The **[illegible]** w/ **La Gente and Sol Americano**: Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 pm, $20, $14

FRIDAY 15

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The [illegible] w/ Windy Hill: Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $12-$15
[illegible]: Electric [illegible], Potemkin, Spirit Speak [illegible] Rum Cafe, 7-8 pm, free
Mark St. Mary and His Zydeco [illegible]: Dance lesson w/ [illegible] at 8:30 pm, dance at 9 pm, Eagles Hall, Oct. 15, $15
[illegible]: Shoreline Amphitheatre, 7:30 pm

Classical & Opera

Jerusalem Quartet: First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 8 pm, $48

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Henry Grimes & Roscoe Mitchell: CNMAT, 8 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]: Jazzschool, 8 pm, $10-$15
Free-Jazz Fridays [illegible] Performance Space, 8 pm, $5-$15
[illegible]: Yoshi's, Oct. 15-16, 8 & 10 pm, $23-$30
[illegible] & Friends: Kimball Piano Company, 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible]: Whitney Nichols, Kaitlin McGaw, & Anna Anne: The Uptown, 8 pm, $7
Space Age w/ Steel Hot Cakes, & Jingle Punx: Stork Club, 9 pm, $5
Tempest, [illegible]: Starry Plough, 9 pm, $15
Widespread Panic: Fox Theater, 8 pm, $45

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Insurgence: Jupiter, 8 pm, free
John Payne & The Hurt Funk Release Party: Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $10, $15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Daniel Torres: live flamenco guitar, 8

The Uptown OAKLAND

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14TH 8PM $12

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FLYLEAF
with STORY OF THE YEAR
OCTOBER 18

MINUS THE BEAR
with TIM KASHER & THE ALONES
OCTOBER 19

Deer Tick
OCTOBER 20

ATREYU
with BLESSTHEFALL, CHIODOS, ARCHITECTS UK & OBEY THE BRAVE
OCTOBER 21

BRING ME THE HORIZON
AUGUST BURNS RED
OCTOBER 27

UNKLE LIVE
with SLEEPY SUN
OCTOBER 28

an evening with
ryuichi sakamoto
NOVEMBER 3

SENSES FAIL
BAYSIDE
NOVEMBER 4

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NOVEMBER 7

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OCTOBER 19

OCTOBER 22

CELTIC THUNDER
OCTOBER 28

OF MONTREAL
with JANELLE MONÁE
OCTOBER 29

Kate Nash
OCTOBER 30

STONE TEMPLE PILOTS
NOVEMBER 1

DJAVAN
NOVEMBER 4

LIKE A SUMMER THURSDAY
FISHBONE
NOVEMBER 6

KT TUNSTALL
with HURRICANE BELLS
NOVEMBER 8

DEVO
NOVEMBER 13

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[illegible]

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[illegible]

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SAN FRANCISCO

tonight! Wed Oct 13
TOM HARRELL QUINTET
[illegible]

[illegible] Thurs Oct 14
[illegible]
10pm Late Night Live Showcase with LA GENTE

this weekend! Fri Oct 15
LATIN KINGS ALL-STARS
[illegible]

this weekend! Sun Oct 17
ALICE WALKER
celebrating
"HARD TIMES REQUIRE FURIOUS DANCING"

this weekend! Sun Oct 17
CRAIG CHAQUICO

next week! Mon Oct 18
THE ROBERT GLASPER TRIO

next week! Tues Oct 19
[illegible]

Wed, Oct 20
CHERRY POPPIN' DADDIES and
LAVAY SMITH & HER RED HOT SKILLET LICKERS

oakland

Oct 12-14 this week!
CHICK COREA TRIO
CHICK COREA
CHRISTIAN McBRIDE
BRIAN BLADE

Oct 15-17 this weekend!
MICHAEL FRANKS

Oct 18-19 next week!
BILLY COBHAM
& PALOMOROME

Oct 20-21
AVISHAI COHEN
[illegible]

Oct 22-23
BILAL
[illegible]

Sun Oct 24
RAIATEA HELM

Mon Oct 25
SCOTT AMENDOLA TRIO
w/ JEFF PARKER & [illegible]

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C&C

[illegible] on Solano, 7:30 pm, free
Thursday Rockbottom La Peña Cultural Center, 5:30 pm, $10-$18
Los Comuneros Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $20.50, $21.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Joyce [illegible] [illegible], free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon [illegible] figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
Don Prell's Seabop Ensemble [illegible], free
[illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, $35

Rock & Pop

AIM Presents: [illegible] w/ [illegible] The Regency Center, 8 pm, $25-$28
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $10, $12
[illegible] w/ [illegible], My First Earthquake, [illegible], 8:30 pm, $17
[illegible] Great American Music Hall, 9 pm, $45
[illegible] The Fillmore, 8 pm, $32.75
[illegible] w/ [illegible] 9:30 pm, $12
Matt [illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 pm, $16
[illegible] Bimbo's 365 Club, Oct. 15-16, 8 pm, $23

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Yoshi's, The Grand Brothers, 8 pm, $25

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Latin Kings All-Stars with [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $25
[illegible] w/ [illegible] The Warfield, 8 pm, $32.50

SATURDAY 16

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe and [illegible] 7-8 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible] Cafe, 7-8 pm, free
The [illegible] Brothers Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50, $19.50
The Legendary [illegible] w/ [illegible] The Uptown, 8 pm, $12, $14

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] [illegible] Arts Center, 8 pm, $6-$15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $25
The [illegible] of Jazz, Soul, R&B w/ [illegible] 8 pm, $40
[illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, free
[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $35

$30

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible] 9 pm, $8
[illegible] [illegible] 7:30 pm
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 pm, $8
Widespread Panic Fox Theater, 8 pm, $45

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8:30 pm, $15
[illegible] kicks off with an African [illegible] at 5 p.m. [illegible], Oct. 18, $10, $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] music w/ [illegible] Caffe Trieste, 10:30 am-12:15 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 pm, $65

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Piedmont Piano Company, 4 pm, free

[illegible] Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels [illegible] the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$77

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] [illegible] the Hill, 9:30 pm, $10
Rock & Roll Happy [illegible] w/ local bands, [illegible], 3-8 pm, free
The Morning Benders The Independent, 8 pm, $20
[illegible] w/ The Benders, The Independent, 9 pm, $15
[illegible] Bimbo's 365 Club, 9 pm, $30
Treasure Island Music Festival w/ [illegible] & Sebastian, The National, LCD Soundsystem, [illegible], Broken Social Scene, [illegible] and [illegible] Treasure Island, Oct. 16-17, $119.50-$175
The [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $21

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Saturday Night Soul Party w/ [illegible] Paul Paul, [illegible], 10 pm, $5
Saturday Night Soul Party w/ [illegible] Paul Paul, [illegible] Club Room, 10 pm, $5-$10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Red Poppy Art House, 8 pm, $12-$20
[illegible] Swedish [illegible] Hall, 8 pm, $25

SUNDAY 17

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged w/ **The Whiskey [illegible]** Jupiter, 5 pm, free
Elizabeth [illegible] Sunday series for kids, [illegible], 3-4:30 pm, $4-$6
[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 7 pm, $20, $25
[illegible] All-Star Super Sessions [illegible] a different blues band every week, Pettar's Restaurant, 5 pm, free
[illegible] Ensemble Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $22.50, $23.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Steven Stone open mic jazz, [illegible] Coffee, 12-2 pm, free
[illegible] Jam w/ [illegible], tenor and soprano saxophones; John Gove, trombone; Erik Jekabson, trumpet; Peter Barshay, bass; Jeff Marrs, drums, Jazzschool, 7:30 pm, $8-$10
[illegible] Yoshi's, 7 & 9 pm, $20-$22
[illegible] Piedmont Piano Company, 4 pm, $10
[illegible] Big Band [illegible] Lodge Rathskeller, 5-8 pm, $20, [illegible] $20
[illegible] Jazzschool, 4:30 pm, $12

Rock & Pop

Widespread Panic Fox Theater, 7 pm, $45

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Domingo [illegible] Afro-Cuban rumba jam, lesson & dance party, Café Valparaiso, 3:30-5:30 pm, free
[illegible] Open Stage w/ [illegible] [illegible], 7:30 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight, $10

Blues, Folk & Country

Lounge, Songwriters Unplugged w/ Aaron [illegible], Alan Walsh, Barry Wing Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $7
[illegible] [illegible] Skip's Tavern, 6:30 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] on piano for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 10 am-1 pm, $58 [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm, $25-$77
[illegible] featuring Andrew Speight, Sam [illegible], [illegible], 4:30-8:30 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

Craig Chaquico Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 & 9 pm, $25
Hot Chip w/ [illegible], The Warfield, 8 pm, $35, $38
Johnny [illegible] Benefit for [illegible] w/ [illegible] & 1 Steven [illegible], 5 pm, $55
[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 8 pm, $25
Say Anything w/ [illegible] Soundtrack, The [illegible] Ballroom, 8 pm, $[illegible]

MONDAY 18

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] John Phillips, [illegible] Mama Buzz Cafe, 7-8 pm, free
"Uptown [illegible]" [illegible] w/ [illegible] Revue, The Uptown, 5 pm, $5
[illegible] Songwriters Competition Freight & Salvage, 7:30 pm, $6.50, $7.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Billy Cobham & Palladrome Yoshi's, Oct. 18-19, 8 pm, $24

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Fox Theater, 8 pm, $35

SAN FRANCISCO

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C&C

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Jazz Hot Le Colonial, 1 pm, free
The Album Stomper Trio Album San Francisco, 8 pm, $17, $15

Rock & Pop

Brothers w/ Greg Ashley, Bottom of the Hill, 1 pm, $12
Rosin Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free
World Rhythm w/ Wye Oak, The Independent, 1 pm, $15
Easy w/ Le Project, Album Actors, & And So I Watch You From Afar, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $12-$14
Ryland w/ Story of the Year, The Grand Ballroom, 7:30 pm, $23

TUESDAY 19

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Presentations Night w/ Lucas, Vinnie's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, free

The Octopus Room Kicks off w/ a Cajun/Zydeco Rooms lesson led by Cheryl McBride at 6:00 pm, Ashkenaz, $10-$18
Freight Open Mic Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $4.50-$5.50
Album Mealy Peter's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Billy Cobham 1 Palladrome Yoshi's, 1 pm, $24
Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring Presents from the Berkeley music school, Jupiter, 1 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Rhymberry's Room Van Presents featuring guests from Rogue Wave, Crown City Rockers, Pinterphonics Nord, Bright Eyes, 1 show, The Layover, $8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Lounge, Late Night Live w/ The Brothers Goldman Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $7

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Bill Nos, Dna Room, John Didorlo Artists' Television Access, 8 pm, $6

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

1 Cutting Edge Classical Evening with NRG! Real Vocal String Quartet and Classical Revolution Yoshi's San Francisco, 1 pm, $14-$11
Jazz Jam hosted by Reg Harvey, Bird's Tavern, 8-11:30 pm, free
Marty Eggers Pier 23, 1:30 pm, free
Tuesday Night Room Stompy Jones plays retro jazz, plus a swing dance lesson, Yerri Club, 1 pm, $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Grey Eason 1 Jubiel Harris Cafe du Nord, 1 pm, $10-$12
Nichola Shepherd w/ The Outlets & Swaybone, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $8
Film School w/ LoveLikeFire & Fake Your Own Death, The Independent, 8 pm, $13-$15
Jughead Pirates w/ Kid 1 Body, Chris Jeffries & the Plastic Fantastic Lover, The Room, 9 pm, $6
The Villagers w/ Dave Smallen (Street to Nowhere), The Attachments & Yawnira, by Goldman Step, 8 pm, $12
Album Room Tour w/ Album w/ Special Room Unloved, The Fillmore, 8 pm, $32.75

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

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WEDNESDAY 20

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Whiskey Goldmans old-time and bluegrass, Prescott Pub, 1 pm, free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Noise-a-tron, Slow Tronics, An Airbag Saved My Life Mama Buzz Cafe, 7-8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Album Cohen Acres Yoshi's, Oct 20-21, 8 1 pm, $20
Room Zimmerman Trio Jupiter, 8 pm, free
Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm, free
WB Helton's piano music, Campo di Bocce, 6-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Big This! local music showdown presented by Pirate Cat Radio, this week: Strange ABC, Club Crusher, & Red Point, The Uptown, 8 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Ordo Sakhna Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $12-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Woodland 1 Rose w/ Mt. Vendittos, King Charles, The Warfield, 8 pm, $23.50

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Air Sex Championships The Independent, 1 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

DJ Wednesdays featuring Amandola vs. Stoles, Cosz, 8 pm, $7
Room Chanel Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $21-$17
Gauche w/ the Mitch Album's Sextet, Amnesia, 1 pm, free
SFJAZZ Presents Album At the Room Herbst Theatre, 7:30 pm, $25-$65
Spencer Day Palace of Fine Arts, 7:30 pm, $8

Rock & Pop

Dom Dirk The Grand Ballroom, 8 pm, $15-$17
Four Tete Jatong w/ The Wonder Years & American Fangs, Slim's, 8 pm, $15-$17

Hedley w/ Gold Music & Chainman View, Cafe Du Nord, 8 pm, $12
Room Pryan (of Bottom State) w/ Karan Bell & 4 Boys Rickshaw Stop, 8 pm, $10
NALA Presents The Vaselines w/ Dum Dum Girls, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $23
DR w/ The Wrablaris (PTR), 1 Zoo, Elbo Room, 1 pm, $7
Scout Album w/ Cuban And The Witch & Excuses For Skipping, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $12
Suicidal Tendencies The Fillmore, 8 pm, $38.50

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Freddy Dunne and la Room Live Bohemian Mediterranean & contemporary folk, Pela Parhammara, 8 pm, $17
Lounge, Global Revolution w/ Album Jon and Papa Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $7

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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924 Gilman 924 Gilman St. Berkeley. 510-525-9926.
Air Bar & Lounge 492 9th St., Lower Patio. Oakland. 510-444-2927.
Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.
The Alley 3325 Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-444-8505.
Amoeba Music 2455 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-549-1125.
Armando's 707 Marina Vista Ave. Martinez. 925-228-1881.
Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-472-3170.
Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054.
Aura 4825 Hopyard Rd. Pleasanton. 925-416-0111.
Bay Street Mall 5601 Bay St., Emeryville.
Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-647-1790.
[illegible] 501 17th St., Oakland. 510-444-2266.
Frank Bette Center for the Arts 1601 Lincoln St., Alameda. 510-523-6957.
The Bistro 1001 B St. Hayward. 510-886-8525.
Blake's on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-848-0886.
Caffe Trieste 2500 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-5198.
Campo di Bocce 175 E. Vineyard Ave. Livermore. 925-249-9800.
Club 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek. 925-938-4550.
Club 21 2111 Franklin St. Oakland. 510-268-9425.
Club [illegible] 426 3rd St. Oakland. 510-463-6665.
[illegible] Mill 3383 Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-465-4724.
College Lane 629 Ferry St. Martinez. 925-228-3341.
Conga Lounge 5422 College Ave. Oakland. 510-463-2681.
[illegible] Web Sports Bar 1524 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. 925-932-1338.
Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave. Alameda. 510-235-0205.
Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-338-4918.
Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-2350.
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way. Berkeley. 510-848-3696.
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway. Oakland. 510-444-3555.
Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. TheFoxOakland.com.
[illegible] 111 W Tennyson Rd. Hayward. 510-783-1709.
Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St. Berkeley. 510-644-2020.
Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.) Berkeley. 510-642-0885.
[illegible] Club 1438 [illegible] St., Alameda. 510-865-3829.
[illegible] 2087 Addison St. Berkeley. 510-845-5373.
Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St. Berkeley. 510-848-0237.
[illegible] & The Church 1223 Park St. Alameda. 510-865-2385.
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-843-8277.
Karibbean City 1430 Webster St., Oakland. 510-763-0700.
[illegible] 522 2nd St., Oakland. 510-444-8400.
King Tsin Chinese Restaurant 1699 Solano Ave. Berkeley.
Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-465-5464.
[illegible] Ivy Room 860 San Pablo Ave. Albany. 510-526-5888.
Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-601-9700.
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-2568.
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-465-4793.
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-893-2484.
Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St. Oakland. 510-464-3543.
Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave. Alameda. 510-523-4700.
Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677.
[illegible] Bar & Grill 2721 N Main St. Walnut Creek. 925-256-7800.
Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th St. Oakland. 510-839-6169.
[illegible] Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-2100.
Mountain Winery 14831 Pierce Rd. Saratoga. 408-741-2822.
[illegible] 6500 Oakland Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344.
Oakland City Center 500 12th St. Oakland. 510-238-4811.
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146.
ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way. Oakland. 510-569-2121.
[illegible] Lounge 2272 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400.
The New Parish 579 18th St. Oakland. 510-444-7474. TheNewParish.com.
Petar's Restaurant 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. 925-284-7117.
Pleasanton Hotel 855 Main St. Pleasanton. 925-846-8106.
Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove. Oakland. 510-536-2050.
Radio 435 13th St. Oakland.
[illegible] 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. 925-284-4617.
Rooster's Restaurant 1700 Clement Ave. Alameda. 510-337-9100.
Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland. 510-444-7224.
Saddle Rack 42011 Boscell Rd., Fremont. 510-979-0477.
Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-1159.
[illegible] 2480 San Ramon Valley Blvd. San Ramon.
Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy. Mountain View. 650-967-3000.
Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-522-1300.
[illegible] Lounge 2591 N Main St. Walnut Creek. 925-932-1888.
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way. Berkeley. 510-848-5107.
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave. Berkeley. 510-845-6830.
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-841-2082.
Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-444-6174.
[illegible] Fingers 404 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-553-9804.
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-451-8100.
[illegible] Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord. 925-685-9515.
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[illegible] 5885 [illegible] St., 415-771-5010.
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Bacar Restaurant and Wine Salon 448 Brannan St. 415-904-4100.
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St. 415-831-5620.
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[illegible] Bar 2299 Mission St., 415-285-0327.
Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave. 415-474-0365.
[illegible] 401 [illegible] St., 415-292-2583.
[illegible] 3230 17th St., 415-571-4456.
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Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016.
Cafe International 508 Haight St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 609 Vallejo St. 415-982-2605.
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332.
[illegible] 752 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678.
[illegible] 785 8th St., 415-[illegible].
Club Fugazi 678 Green St., 415-421-4222.
Club Six 60 Sixth St. 415-863-1221.
Coda 1710 Mission St., 415-551-2632.
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000.
[illegible] 2111 Leavenworth St., 415-[illegible].
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409.
Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St. 415-643-8592.
The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St. 415-626-0880.
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St. 415-885-4074.
[illegible] 2700 [illegible] St., 415-437-9843.
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325.
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788.
Element Lounge 1028 Geary St., 415-440-1303.
The Endup 401 6th St., 415-646-0999.
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd. 415-346-6000.
[illegible] 520 4th St. 415-[illegible].
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The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994.
Levende Lounge 1710 Mission St. 415-864-5585.
Madrone Lounge 500 Divisadero St., 415-241-0202.
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Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880.
[illegible] [illegible] West Portal Ave.
Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St., 415-454-5238.
Park Chalet Restaurant 1000 Great Highway. 415-386-8439.
[illegible] 1800 Powell St. 415-[illegible].
Pier 23 The Embarcadero. 415-362-5125.
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St. 415-921-1695.
[illegible] Lounge 628 20th St. 415-[illegible].
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011.
[illegible] 456 [illegible] St. 415-387-6344.
[illegible] 222 [illegible] St.
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275.
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Skylark 3089 16th St. 415-621-9294.
Slim's 333 11th St. 415-522-0333.
Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave. 415-550-8286.
[illegible] 399 9th St., 415-863-6623.
Swedish American Hall 2174 Market St., 415-[illegible].
Supper Club 657 Harrison St. 415-348-0900.
Swig Bar 561 Geary St. 415-931-7292.
Temple 540 Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-252-1330.
Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St. 415-616-6916.
[illegible] 601 Bush St., 415-[illegible].
Velvet Lounge 443 Broadway St. 415-788-0228.
The Warfield 982 Market St. 415-775-7722.
[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Lounge 2101 Sutter St. 415-563-5670.
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600.

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 14

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ and [illegible] spinning, Bhodes, R&B, dancehall, & hip-hop, Bomb Pomp Inn, 9 pm, $5. Discount free w/ valid ID

Boom Boom w/ [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible] Down Low, 9 pm, free

Bollyhood Thursdays [illegible], 10 pm, free

DJ Jerry Smith spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ Trick spinning lounge, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free

Night Vision featuring DJ [illegible], The Layover, 10 pm, free

Happy Hour w/ DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, African, salsa, cumbia, [illegible], boogie [illegible] & funk, Kitty's, 7 pm, free

Oakland Wax featuring DJs [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $5

Riff Raff indie pop, [illegible], new wave, Radio, 10 pm-2 am, free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Shoobiedoo featuring DJ [illegible], The Layover, 10 pm, free

Thirsty Thursdays w/ DJs Vicky [illegible] & Paisley Fresh spinning '80s flashbacks, Bhodes, & old-school, Diamond Dollar Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs Damon, Julien, [illegible] & [illegible] spin '80s & new wave, Cat Club, 9 pm, free before 9:30 p.m., $6

Bingotopia by Bobo $3 Bobo [illegible] during Bingo, The Knockout, 7:30-10 pm, free

College Night DJs Rooks and host [illegible] spin hip-hop, hyphy, R&B, & more, The Cellar, 10 pm, free

Das Black w/ Butterfly [illegible], & DJ [illegible], The Independent, 8 pm, $15

DJ [illegible] & [illegible], spinning [illegible] music, [illegible], 9 pm, free

Pacific Standard Time featuring DJ Lloydb, [illegible] & [illegible] Golden Bull Lounge, 9 pm, free

Play Anything DJs spinning Pop Rock and Hip-Hop all night, [illegible], free

Solid Thursdays featuring DJ [illegible] guests, Club Six, 9 pm, $5

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

FRIDAY 15

EAST BAY

Spinning w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning the hottest music in the Bay Area, White Horse Inn, 8 pm, $5

Flashback Fridays DJs Picture, [illegible], & guests spin old-school hip-hop, free funk, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Friday Night Salsa w/ [illegible] DJs spinning salsa, [illegible] Café, 10 pm, $8

Friday [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, [illegible], indie, & [illegible] rock, Missouri Lounge, 6:30 pm, free

Ice Pump DJ 2/ [illegible], Jupiter, 5-7 pm, free

"La Bella" [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spin dancehall, soul, R&B, salsa, and club pop, New [illegible], 10 pm, $25

Mandala weekly in-house DJ series, [illegible] Music, 7-11 pm, free

Old-School hip-hop and funk, Radio, 9 pm, free

Quilombo DJ Joe [illegible] spins funk, Latin, & [illegible], Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

Retro-Action [illegible] beats '80s pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Straight w/ DJ [illegible] spinning northern soul, [illegible], '60s, [illegible], new wave & rock 'n' roll, Ruby Room, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] Club DJs spin Bossa music w/ Latin & Brazilian beats, Club Kat, 10 pm, $6, free before 10:30 p.m.

Element Fridays w/ rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, rock, & more, Element Lounge, 9 pm, $5

[illegible] [illegible] DJs, The EndUp, 11 pm, $15, free before midnight

The Jah Yzer Nickel Bag of Funk Birthday Celebration w/ Ant Rose, [illegible] (Jersey Party) & Jah Yzer, Elbo Room, 10 pm, $5

Kaleidoscope DJ Carlos spins [illegible] psych, R&B, & garage, House of Shields, 8 pm, free

Mandala weekly in-house DJ series, Element Music, 8-9 pm, free

Paris Dance International DJs Angie and Marco spin reggae, dancehall, Bhodes, soul, & R&B, Little Baobab, 9 pm, $5

SHAKE [illegible] live performers plus DJ Neil Martinez spinning funk, soul, Indian pop, & disco, The Knockout, 11 pm, free

Steal w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], Underground SF, 9 pm, $5

SATURDAY 16

EAST BAY

All Productions & [illegible] DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop, Fame, 10 pm, free

Club [illegible]'s DJs [illegible] Ross & Soul Profess spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae & Bhodes, [illegible] Lounge, 8 pm, $20

Jukebox The Equality w/ [illegible], Uptown Body & Fender, 8 pm, $25

La Santa Loca Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & [illegible] plus hot go-go dancers, Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15

[illegible], [illegible] [illegible] DJ beats & guests host [illegible] extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Oaktown Undergrnd The Layover, 10 pm, free

Reggae Night Conga Lounge, 10 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] [illegible] on Telegraph, 9 pm

Warm-Up w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, Missouri Lounge, 9-10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Element Saturdays w/ DJ [illegible] spinning Bhodes, [illegible], & mashups, Element Lounge, 9 pm, $5

Mandala [illegible] party w/ DJs spinning '80s, new wave, & hip-hop, Cat Club, 9 pm, free

Non-Stop Sundays [illegible] Stop, 9 pm, $10-$15

Paris Dance International DJs Saigal and Marco spin reggae, dancehall, Bhodes, soul, & R&B, Little Baobab, 9 pm, $8

Seduction w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and club, The Cellar, 9 pm, free before 10 p.m., $10 after

SUNDAY 17

EAST BAY

Lucky Steps w/ DJ host [illegible] & rotating live performers, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 pm, free

Lay It Down Sundays spinning DJ [illegible], The Layover, 2 pm, free

Soul Sanctuary Dance Community dance, Shoes optional. [illegible], [illegible], Ashkenaz, 11 am-2 pm, $8-$15, free for newcomers or children 12 & under

Stable Dub & Ska Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady & roots-reggae, The Honey Today Club, 7 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Music w/ Salar and Nikola plus guests spinning house, funk, disco and soul, Triple Crown, 10 pm

Bobbing [illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests spin reggae & dancehall, Underground SF 9 pm, free before 10:30 pm, $5

Bass Star DJ [illegible] & guests spin rare jazz, soul, & funk, [illegible], 9 pm, free

MONDAY 18

EAST BAY

DJ Ange spinning dub, ska, & soul, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

Club [illegible] & Relax w/ Core 4 p.m.-9 p.m., & Mike 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Club 1220, 4 pm-2 am, free

Mystery Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, new wave, & electro, Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

Underground Lounge [illegible] '60s & prime '70s music, Radio, 10 pm-2 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Jukebox [illegible] Club Kat, 8:30 pm, $3 before 10 p.m., $5

Bombay Bump presented by [illegible], the [illegible], The Cellar, 9 pm, free

Retox Lounge w/ DJ [illegible], Cafe Cocomo, 7:30 pm, $5. [illegible], $10

Radical Vinyl w/ DJ Jerry Houston spinning an [illegible] mix of vinyl, [illegible], 9 pm-2 am, $2

SpIRIT Revolution w/ DJs [illegible], Kung Fu Chris, & D-Mono spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, '60s boogie, jazz, Latin and Afrobeat, Tunnel Top, 10 pm, free

TUESDAY 19

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] spinning, [illegible] & Latin funk, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ [illegible] spinning punk, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free

Hot Attack! DJs [illegible] party w/ DJs Grandface & [illegible], The Uptown, 9 pm, free

Spinning Live w/ DJ [illegible] & guests, Spin Ultra Lounge & Gourmet Pizza, 8 pm, $10

Jump Off Night [illegible] [illegible], Bhodes, 8 pm, $25

Sixty Punk! w/ DJ [illegible] spinning indie, punk, [illegible] & metal, Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Jerk Up [illegible], Elbo Room, [illegible] & [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, Bhodes, & [illegible], free before 11 p.m., $10, 10 pm, $5

Brazilian [illegible] [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and [illegible], Elbo Room, 9 pm, $7

Old-School Hip-Hop & SF Fusion Little [illegible], 9 pm, $3

[illegible] [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], Gonsoro, & [illegible] plus MC [illegible], Underground SF, 9 pm, $5

Scenario w/ DJs Chicken Stuffin', Scotty Fox, [illegible], MCD, & guests spinning '80s and early '90s hip-hop, The Cellar, 10 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 20

EAST BAY

Acclimate Delight w/ DJ Kitty spinning Ecuatorial funk, & more, Kitty's, 9 pm, free

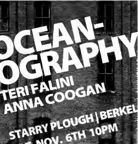
[illegible], Pop Rocks w/ DJs Adam Ant, [illegible] Yodan [illegible] beats and [illegible] spinning house and electronica, [illegible] on Telegraph, 5 pm, $5

The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15

Persuasion Latin cowboy night w/ host Violeta, [illegible], 7 pm, $6-$15

Sundays Wet Wednesdays poetry, open mic, and live [illegible], 10 pm, free

[illegible] Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spinning, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] reggaeton, & more, plus salsa before [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 pm, free



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File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as **J&J Landscape Management, Inc.** [illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as [illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as [illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]

The following statement is doing business as **Allard Environmental Consulting** [illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as **Paleopedia.com** [illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as [illegible]

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File # [illegible]

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File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as [illegible]

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File # [illegible]

The following individual is doing business as [illegible]

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CASE NUMBER [illegible]

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda [illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement
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SAVAGE LOVE

PILLOW TALK

Loud lesbians resort to pillows and Dan responds to a critic.

By Dan Savage

I was listening to the radio yesterday morning and I heard an interview with you about your **It Gets Better** *campaign. I was saddened and frustrated with your comments regarding people of faith and their perpetuation of bullying. As someone who loves the Lord and does not support gay marriage, I can honestly say I was heartbroken to hear about the young man who took his own life.*

If your message is that we should not judge people based on their sexual preference, how do you justify judging entire groups of people for any other reason (including their faith)? There is no part of me that took any pleasure in what happened to that young man, and I know for a fact that is true of many other people who disagree with your viewpoint.

To that end, to imply that I would somehow encourage my children to mock, hurt or intimidate another person for any reason is completely unfounded and offensive. Being a follower of Christ is, above all things, a recognition that we are all imperfect, fallible and in need of a savior. We cannot believe that we are better or more worthy than other people.

Please consider your viewpoint, and please be more careful with your words in the future.

L.R.

I'm sorry your feelings were hurt. No, wait. I'm not. Gay kids are dying. So let's try to keep things in perspective: Fuck your feelings.

A question: Do you "support" atheist marriage? Interfaith marriage? Divorce and remarriage? All are legal, all go against Christian and/or traditional ideas about marriage, and yet there's no "Christian" movement to deny marriage rights to atheists or people marrying outside their respective faiths or people divorcing and remarrying.

Why the hell not? Sorry, L.R., but as long as you support the denial of marriage rights to same-sex couples, it's clear that you do believe that some people — straight people — are "better or more worthy" than others.

And — sorry — but you are partly responsible for the bullying and physical violence being visited on vulnerable LGBT children. The kids of people who see gay people as sinful or damaged or disordered and unworthy of full civil equality — even if those people strive to express their bigotry in the politest possible way (at least when they happen to be addressing a gay person) — learn to see gay people as sinful, damaged, disordered, and unworthy. And while there may not be any gay adults or couples where you live, at your church, or in your workplace, I promise you that there are gay and lesbian children in your schools. And while you can only attack gays and lesbians at the ballot box, nice and impersonally, your children have the option of attacking actual gays and lesbians, in person, in real time.

Real gay and lesbian children. Not political abstractions, not "sinners." Try to keep up: The dehumanizing bigotries that fall from the lips of "faithful Christians" and the lies about us that vomit out from the pulpits of churches that "faithful Christians" drag their kids to on Sundays, give your children license to verbally abuse, humiliate, and condemn the gay children they encounter at school. And many of your children — having listened to Mom and Dad talk about how gay marriage is a threat to family and how gay sex makes Jesus cry — feel justified in physically abusing the LGBT children they encounter in their schools. You don't have to explicitly "encourage [your] children to mock, hurt, or intimidate" queer kids. Your encouragement — along with your hatred and fear — is implicit. It's there. It's clear. And we're seeing the fruits of it: dead children.

Those same dehumanizing bigotries that fill your straight children with hate fill your gay children with suicidal despair. Did that hurt to hear? It couldn't have hurt nearly as much as what was said and done to **Asher Brown** and **Justin Aaberg** and **Billy Lucas** and **Cody Barker** and **Seth Walsh** — day-in, day-out, for years — at schools filled with bigoted little monsters created not in the image of a loving God, but in the image of the hateful and false "followers of Christ" they call Mom and Dad.

I am engaged to a man whose sexual orientation is somewhat confusing to me. A few months ago, I discovered transgender porn on his computer. When I asked him about it, he said he just watches all kinds of porn "just to watch it." That sounded like total bullshit to me — and it was proved to be total bullshit when I discovered that he watches ONLY this type of porn. I also recently discovered a letter he had composed a few years back to another man asking him to "hook up," stating that my fiancé had had a one-night stand with another guy and really wanted to do it again.

I really don't want to dump the guy. I love him. My question is: what the fuck do I do? I feel like crazy bitch supreme trying to get this out of him, but it's impossible not to think about.

Bitchy Girlfriend

There's nothing to be confused about. Your fiancé is very clearly bisexual. Gay men just aren't into chicks-with-dicks porn, that subgenre that appeals exclusively to straight/straightish/bi male viewers.

It's a tired cliché, I realize, and I shy away from it for that reason, but in this case the shoe fits: Your fiancé has a bad case of the internal- and homophobias. He finds it easier to be open with someone he doesn't care about and is unlikely to see ever again precisely because he doesn't care about that person and isn't going to see him again. If you or the other people in his life he's close to knew, he fears you would see him as damaged or inferior because that's how he sees himself.

I'm a loud fucker, just like the partner of the woman who wrote in recently. With my consent, my partner uses a pillow to dampen my screams, so I don't have to worry I'll piss off the neighbors.

Lesbians Do Scream

It's all fun and games — loud fun, ear-splitting games — until someone accidentally asphyxiates a screamer. But thanks for sharing. ■

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) at thestranger.com/savage.

mail@savagelove.net

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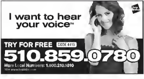
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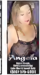
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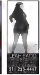
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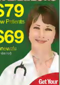

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